

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2008

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CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Present: Mayor Naugle
Commissioners Hutchinson, Rodstrom, and Teel and Vice Mayor Moore
(Vice Mayor Moore arrived at approximately 1:35 p.m.)

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas
City Auditor - John Herbst
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Mary Gushwa

I-B – Parking Citation Amnesty Program

John Hoelzle, Director of Parking and Fleet Services, reviewed slides concerning a parking citation amnesty program. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. He explained that outstanding citations have to do partly with not being able to get registered owner information. A heavy advertising program is planned. The City's current collection rate averages 72%-76%. The industry average is 71%. He explained the current process.

Vice Mayor Moore arrived at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Mr. Hoelzle indicated when citations are ninety days old, they are sent to a collection agency. He detailed what the agency does in terms of collection efforts. They have a collection rate of 37% which was the highest of all vendors who bid on this work. Florida violators with three unpaid citations get their DMV registration blocked until all outstanding parking citations are paid. Violators with four or more unpaid citations become boot eligible, and when located on public property certified letters are sent to advise the individual that he or she is boot eligible.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if anything about outstanding parking citations is sent to the Driver's License Bureau as it relates to renewal of licenses. Mr. Hoelzle was not aware of any law that would permit it as it relates to driver licenses. Diana Alacon, Assistant Parking Services Manager, explained that a driver's license is usually tied to a traffic violation.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if non-payments are reported to credit bureaus. Mr. Hoelzle said that is not being done at this time. Miami-Dade County sends such files after a period of time to a credit agency. Ms. Alacon commented that the liability could outweigh such a process. Commissioner Hutchinson wanted to know what other cities report to a credit agency.

Commissioner Teel asked about staffing to implement the program. Mr. Hoelzle explained staff handles this now. He noted the various ways that people may pay a citation. There will be notification.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about the revenue projection. Mr. Hoelzle indicated they used percentages from other agencies who have such a program. The City Manager noted it is only an estimate.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Hoelzle indicated there would be no additional expense for getting the word out. Sometimes people like the idea of not paying the additional \$10 to \$20 fee that accrues. Commissioner Rodstrom was concerned that people may wait for another amnesty program. Mr. Hoelzle indicated the City would not want to offer another amnesty program in the near future.

Commissioner Rodstrom questioned why the City does not boot at three violations now. Mr. Hoelzle said the policy has been in place for years, but they have recently found that cities are booting at three.

The City Manager commented that as the threshold for booting of vehicles is lowered, the more complaints will be received.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Hoelzle indicated the penalty amount could be increased.

Vice Mayor Moore liked the idea of exploring use of a collection agency. He did not support changing the threshold for booting vehicles from four to three or the amnesty program. He noted that Mr. Hoelzle just indicated the City makes over 76% of its collections which is very high in comparison to other cities. He was more concerned about individuals not paying citations and thinking they could get such a reduction in the future.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked why the City would just give up the fine revenue. Mr. Hoelzle explained there are some very old fines prior to 2001. He elaborated upon the difficulty in getting adequate information to pursue them. The new software system will be able to accomplish much more in terms of obtaining more information.

Mayor Naugle explained some are people who have moved away or died. Mr. Hoelzle indicated the amnesty program would give staff the ability to write-off those old fines.

In response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. Hoelzle indicated a hold on registration renewals is only possible for vehicles registered in Florida. Information is also secured from rental car companies.

Vice Mayor Moore asked what would be done with the additional revenue collected. Mr. Hoelzle said the primary focus would be meeting ADA requirements and there are garage and lot rehabilitation projects. The ADA work is estimated at \$1.3 million this year and \$1.3 million next year. Staff anticipates collecting \$700,000 with this program.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked and Mr. Hoelzle assured the program will be carefully documented. Mayor Naugle suggested a 90-day status report.

Action: There was consensus approval on the Amnesty Program, on booting vehicles with three unpaid citations and on pursuing a collection agency to add delinquent collection fee to the violator's amount due. Staff was requested to look into raising the late fee. A ninety-day status report is to be provided.

I-A – Relocation of Old Dillard Community School to Mizell Center

Vice Mayor Moore introduced Ben Williams, Broward County School Board member, and noted efforts have been underway for a needed venue for adult education.

Ben Williams, Broward County School Board member, noted that the graduation rate for students is decreasing and there is also a dropout problem. He noted a \$6 million expansion of the old Dillard Museum is anticipated. The School Board would like to relocate the community school to the first floor of the Mizell Center, and hopefully bring dropouts back to a classroom setting. City offices at that location could be relocated to the second floor. They would also like to provide a day care center. He noted that mass transit would be available to that location. They would be willing to make the renovations.

In response to Mayor Naugle, Margarett Hayes, Community Development Manager, indicated the Mizell Center is 6,800 square feet of which the City's Community Development offices encompass approximately 4,000 square feet. She noted there are other non-profits at the site and a large conference room on the first floor. Community Development could relocate to the second floor, previously occupied by the library.

In response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. Williams indicated the School Board would pay rent to the City for the space and execute a lease.

Mayor Naugle asked what is being done with the adult education building on South Federal Highway. Mr. Williams said there is some office use in that building. He was not certain what is anticipated.

Vice Mayor Moore and Commissioner Rodstrom thought it was a good idea. Vice Mayor Moore felt location is the true issue. It would be positive to keep the use in the community. He mentioned that there have been discussions about the not-for-profits to move to the Tyrone Bryant Library when a new library is built at Osswald Park.

Mayor Naugle noted that the rental income could be used for rental of space elsewhere as needed. He wanted more information on the building on South Federal Highway.

The City Manager supported the proposal. He was not certain where the money could be used because it is HUD programs, but staff will check. A lease would have to be negotiated and the non-profit issue would also have to be addressed.

Mayor Naugle noted the lease should be for adult education. If the was moved out at some time in the future, the site would revert back to the City. Commissioner Rodstrom noted there would also be a daycare use. Mayor Naugle noted that is already situated there. The City Manager noted that subleasing would not be permitted.

Vice Mayor Moore indicated that Mr. Williams will be requesting School Board assistance with regard to evening care of children for adults attending classes. He suggested a City resolution in support of that evening childcare. Commissioner Rodstrom concurred.

Action: Consensus approval. Mayor Naugle requested information on the School Board's adult education facility at 1600 South Federal Highway. He noted the lease

should specify the adult education use only. No subleasing was also noted. At Vice Mayor Moore's suggestion, there was consensus to consider a resolution supporting evening child care assistance to participants.

I-C – Charter Revision Board – Items For Review

Commissioner Hutchinson asked that the first meeting be scheduled when all members can attend. Her appointment cannot attend on February 21st and therefore she assumed that meeting would not be held. Mayor Naugle thought that at least all Commission appointed members should be present for the first meeting, whereas the ex-officio members could be represented by another person.

Commissioner Teel asked if the meetings could be televised. The City Clerk said that could be done if the Commission wishes.

Action: There was consensus for the board to consider: 1) changing terms of office to four years to facilitate moving election date to coincide with general elections held in November of even numbered years; 2) filling a vacancy on the City Commission; 3) providing for City Clerk's employees to be appointed by City Clerk; 4) providing for City Auditor's employees to be unclassified. Commissioner Hutchinson asked that the first meeting be on a date when all Commission appointments to the board are able to be present. Commissioner Teel requested the meetings be televised.

II-A – Tuition Refund Program

No discussion.

II-B – Creation Of Broward Urban Independent Fire District – Legislation Proposed By Broward Council of Professional Firefighters

Commissioner Hutchinson indicated there is no support from the League of Cities on this.

Mayor Naugle commented that the City got in the business of advanced life support because Broward County paramedics were not responding quickly enough. In response to Mayor Naugle, Commissioner Hutchinson indicated what is being placed on the ballot would not force cities.

James Eddy, Fire-Rescue Chief, indicated several of his concerns are outlined in the information provided the Commission. Essentially, the fire district would become its own separate tax entity and local control would be lost. The City would give up their rights and responsibilities relative to fire and life safety protection. The district and their representatives would hire and fire personnel, make decisions on apparatus and establish standards.

Chief Eddy noted some history about the origin of fire districts and how they functioned.

Mayor Naugle asked if there would be any harm done with its passing and should the City oppose it.

The City Auditor asked if such a district was created, would the City, by interlocal agreement, be able to obtain that tax revenue to support its municipal fire department.

Chief Eddy replied off-hand he would say no. Communities will have a choice to opt into or not. If no communities opt in over a period of five years after its passage, it would become null and void.

The City Auditor explained how municipalities in Duval County were able to secure a reduction in the County millage rate with respect to their opting to provide their own police services. Mayor Naugle said presumably if the City did not opt into the fire district, that tax would not be collected from Fort Lauderdale residents.

The City Auditor commented that there seems to be a movement by cities and counties to a more fee-based structure, as opposed to a millage rate structure that supports general fund. The City could dedicate a revenue stream for fire.

Vice Mayor Moore commented that his first thought was the City providing regional service. It might free up some portion of the budget.

In response to Vice Mayor Moore, Chief Eddy indicated that the policymakers would be appointed to the Broward County Board by the elected officials.

Vice Mayor Moore felt that fees are regressive because individuals owning homes of varying values all pay the same amount.

Action: Information accepted.

II-C – December 2007 Monthly Financial Report

No discussion.

III-B – Board and Committee Vacancies

Audit Advisory Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Aviation Advisory Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Beach Redevelopment Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Board of Adjustment

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Cemeteries Board of Trustees

Vice Mayor Moore recommended reappointment of Delores Sallette to the Cemeteries Board of Trustees.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Citizens' Police Review Board

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointment of Stephen C. Muffler to the Citizens' Police Review Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Code Enforcement Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Community Appearance Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Community Services Board

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointments of Avery A. Dial and Michael Kimmey to the Community Services Board.

Education Advisory Board

Commissioner Hutchinson recommended reappointments of Leanore Deaner and Elizabeth Hays to the Education Advisory Board.

Commissioner Teel recommended appointment of Maureen S. Whitting to the Education Advisory Board.

Vice Mayor Moore recommended reappointment of Kaola King to the Education Advisory Board.

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointment of Phaedra Xanthos to the Education Advisory Board.

Mayor Naugle recommended reappointment of Connie C. Christensen to the Education Advisory Board. Mayor Naugle recommended appointments of Leola McCoy and Elaine Schulze to the Education Advisory Board.

Enterprise Zone Development

In response to Vice Mayor Moore, Alfred Battle, Community Redevelopment Director, said there are nine seats on this board, five of which are held by the City, two by the County and one by Dania and Lauderhill. He explained the County has reduced their number of appointments because their square footage is less and there are new players. The previous board sunseted in 2006.

In response to Commissioner Teel, Mr. Battle noted previous Fort Lauderdale representatives. The board last met in 2002, however a board is required by statute.

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issues Blue Ribbon Committee

Vice Mayor Moore recommended reappointment of Delores McKinley to the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issues Blue Ribbon Committee.

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointment of Thornie Jarrett to the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issues Blue Ribbon Committee.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Insurance Advisory Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Marine Advisory Board

Commissioner Hutchinson recommended reappointments of Randolph Adams, John H. Baker, and Bob Ross to the Marine Advisory Board.

Commissioner Teel recommended reappointments of John E. Custer, Michael G. Widoff, and Eugene Zorovich to the Marine Advisory Board.

Vice Mayor Moore recommended reappointment of Stephen Tilbrook to the Marine Advisory Board.

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointment of Alec H. Anderson to the Marine Advisory Board.

Mayor Naugle recommended reappointments of Barry Flanigan, Rich Schulze, and John A. Terrill to the Marine Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

Nuisance Abatement Board

Action: No Formal Action Taken.

Utility Advisory Committee

Commissioner Rodstrom recommended reappointment of Caldwell Cooper to the Utility Advisory Committee.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken At Regular Meeting.

IV – City Commission Reports

Interstate 95 Turn, Extension of Hours; Executive Airport

Commissioner Teel noted the City's consultants have been working on a study required by the Federal Aviation Administration to consider an extension of hours of the I-95 turn. Information was provided to residents but there was concern on the part of the residents with respect to dissemination of the information, so they requested an extension be secured by Congressman Ron Klein.

Helicopter School; Executive Airport

Commissioner Teel reported on the helicopter school (Executive Airport) that went out of business and the financial impact to those enrolled.

Annie Beck House; Middle River Terrace Park

Commissioner Rodstrom noted staff is working on the Annie Beck House – Middle River Terrace Park.

Beach Master Plan

Commissioner Rodstrom said the Beach Master Plan is going well.

Rescheduling March 18, 2008 City Commission Meetings

Commissioner Rodstrom asked if the March 18 Commission meeting could be rescheduled to March 11 or March 25 for spring break .

Action: There was consensus approval to reschedule the March 18, 2008 City Commission meetings to March 11, 2008.

Crime Reduction Look-out Device; 22nd

Vice Mayor Moore thanked the Police Department for installing the crime reduction device on 22nd and hoped it would be done more regularly.

Metropolitan Planning Organization; 7 Avenue Connector and Widening State Road 7

Vice Mayor Moore referred to discussions at the Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings and indicated that the South Florida Regional Transit Authority would like to see the \$2 rental car fee monies dedicated to them because they need a dedicated revenue source and must operate 48 trains on a weekly basis. This may have a devastating impact on the 7 Avenue and 9 Avenue Connector. He wanted the item placed on a conference agenda.

Commissioner Teel said there was discussion at the MPO meeting about holding a workshop. Vice Mayor Moore said that a workshop will be held. Members have been asked to present questions prior to the workshop. If they were to receive this funding, it would impact the State Route 441 improvements and delay the opportunity for 7 Avenue and 9 Avenue Connector. With delays, the land acquisition costs increase.

Jennie Brooks and William Dandy Ceremonies

Vice Mayor Moore thanked City staff and the Public Information Office for the arrangements made to recognize Jennie Brooks and William Dandy a week ago Saturday.

Sistrunk Festival

Vice Mayor Moore wanted the Commission to consider being in the parade for Sistrunk Festival. He asked the City contact the organizers.

Walk Against Crime

Vice Mayor Moore announced an upcoming walk against crime on February 22, 2008.

Southside School Restoration

Commissioner Hutchinson requested an update on the Southside School project. She noted the openings are not protected and she wanted to know when the shoring will be finished.

Homeless

Commissioner Hutchinson thanked the City Manager and the Police Department for meeting with the downtown area businesses and their actions. There is a severe homeless problem in the downtown. The vandalism is creating a hardship on businesses, one being the Women's Club.

The City Manager commented there are a tremendous number of people who want service. Often the shelters are full by 3 p.m. Although no one wants homeless congregating in the parks late at night for example, but if there is no facility for them at that time of the evening, where should they go. The resource officers have some 6,000 contacts with the homeless each year.

Skateboarding in Prohibited Areas

Commissioner Hutchinson referred to the Urban Group associated with the Broward Workshop and that there is a concern about skateboarding. She commented that the only solution may be to take the board away. She asked how quickly could such legislation be presented to the Commission for their review. The City Manager said staff is hoping to do this without legislation. He will return to the Commission if necessary.

Vice Mayor Moore questioned why people who are damaging public property are not arrested. Bruce Roberts, Police Chief, explained unless the damage is more than \$1,000, the individual has to be caught in the act. Staff is working on it.

The City Manager added they are trying to think about it in terms of where skateboarding is not permitted which could be a trigger to threaten to taking away the board. They do not want to take boards away, but rather change the behavior.

Commissioner Rodstrom said Broward County has a beautiful skateboarding park. She suggested informing citizens through City publications by including information about that facility and others. The City Manager commented that might be helpful from a

holistic standpoint, however the very nature of skateboarders is that they like the freedom and independence therefore a structured facility is not the point. Commissioner Rodstrom felt competition is the number one draw. The City Manager said the parks are a reasonable alternative that staff could inform skateboarders when they are skateboarding in places that are prohibited.

Commissioner Hutchinson felt this topic is at the forefront of staff's mind. She appreciated that they plan to attend the meeting on Thursday.

Bill Keith Preserve

Commissioner Hutchinson announced the Bill Keith Preserve dedication this Saturday at Shady Banks.

State of the City Ceremony

Mayor Naugle said that tomorrow night the State of the City will be held at the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk was completed at the end of December and opened for the boat parade, but there was never a formal ceremony. Although there is a small section by Las Olas Boulevard along with some sections to the west that are not complete, it is complete as originally conceived. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned and all former commissioners during that period of time have been invited. He asked the City Manager to also invite all former city managers during that time.

Citizen Presentation Policy

Mayor Naugle said that at the last citizen presentation someone advertised a product. He wanted the Commission's concurrence to direct the City Clerk to include in the citizen presentation policy that the time cannot be used to sell or advertise a product or service.

Action: At Mayor Naugle's suggestion, there was consensus approval to prohibit the promoting, advertising and marketing of a product or service during Citizen Presentations of City Commission meetings.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 2:46 P.M.

The City Commission shall meet privately, pursuant to Florida Statute 768.28, regarding evaluation of the following claims:

Marion Rabinowitz – GL 078-811

Gean Boyle – PP L 04-688

Isham v City – Broward County Circuit Court Case 03-007988 (02)

MEETING RECONVENED AT 4:56 P.M.

V – City Manager Report

None given.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:56 p.m.

