

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
MAY 19, 2009**

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CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 2:01 P.M. MAY 19, 2009

Present: Mayor Seiler
Vice Mayor Bruce Roberts, Commissioners Bobby DuBose, and Romney Rogers, and Charlotte Rodstrom

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 – Sgt. Dana Swisher

I-A – Water and Wastewater Rate Study

Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, presented slides on the study. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

Albert del Castillo, Bond Counsel, provided an overview of the bonds issued by the City and covenants that exists in favor of the bondholders. One is a rate covenant that obligates the City to set rates and charges each fiscal year so that net revenue generated will equal at least 125% of debt service requirements, plus 100% of various required deposits into reserve accounts, renewal and replacement accounts, and rate stabilization accounts. In addition, when the City considers issuing new bonds, there is a requirement that the revenues in any twelve of the last twenty-four months would equal at least 125% of the maximum principal and interest requirements on the City's bonded indebtedness. The credit rating directly affects borrowing costs.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Castillo provided more detail on the bonds issued by year and the amounts outstanding. Mr. Carbon noted the maturity years and the City's debt in the state revolving fund. The City could secure additional money from the revolving fund in July, 2009. Mr. Castillo commented there is a substantial difference between an AA rated bond versus an A rated bond in terms of interest expense.

In response to Commissioner Rogers' question regarding the market, Mr. Castillo said it is a tough market at this time. He went on to elaborate upon this topic.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question, Mr. Castillo indicated that Build America bonds are available for utilities but only for capital improvements. They could be used if the City could not issue traditional tax exempt bonds, although some investment bankers will say that Build America bonds might be better today. Discussion turned to options available to the City. Historically, the City's bond issues have been on a competitive basis, however, the City may be better served in this market by a negotiated sale. He explained the benefits.

Mr. Carbon continued with the slide presentation. Mr. Carbon responded to Mayor Seiler's question about the remaining 86% if base charges recovered are 14%, and that the optimum recovery percentage of 30% is a national American Water Works Association figure.

The following responses were provided to the Commission's questions:

Mr. Castillo indicated the bond rating agencies look at these percentages and even deeper to make sure fixed charges are set to cover fixed costs and the same for variable costs or at least there is a reasonable relationship. Mike Burton of Burton & Associates, City consultant, was not aware of any utility that recovers all of their fixed costs in the fixed charges. There is a balancing of the fixed charge in being fair to the low volume user and having a price signal when people use too much water in the interest of conservation. In Florida a range of 25%-30% has been a target. Mr. Castillo explained that the rating agencies would like to see more of the fixed costs covered by fixed charges, but it is not realistic. Mr. Burton added at some point it become politically impossible. As to whether the City would be adversely affected by a recovery of 14%, Mr. Carbon referred to the slide that indicated that Standard and Poor requested the City to look at its fixed charges. Mr. Castillo felt an increase of that percentage would be very helpful in the eyes of the rating agencies. Mr. Burton listed factors considered by the rating agencies as well as how types of users are defined and mitigation for low volume users.

Mr. Carbon continued with the slide presentation. He responded to Mayor Seiler's questions concerning debt service, indicating when WaterWorks was initiated in 2001, the utility was debt free. Mr. Burton explained that most utilities that are growing and dealing with environmental regulations have debt between 30% to 50% of their revenue requirement. In further response, Mr. Carbon indicated there are replacements, like a pump, that are budgeted as capital in the operating budget. Julie Leonard, Assistant Utilities Services Director, added such capital items are over \$1,000 and could be equipment or a truck. Mr. Burton explained the differentiation of when to finance capital items by debt funding.

Mr. Carbon continued with the slide presentation.

Andy Burnham of Burton & Associates, City consultant, reviewed slides concerning comparative water and sewer rates, and indicated, after the recommended adjustment, the City would be at the middle of the survey even before the other rate increases (by other utilities) have taken place. There may be additional rate increases not identified in the slide. He went on to review the slides on water and sewer rates. The slides include removal of the drought rate surcharge for Phases I and II. He responded to Vice Mayor Roberts and Commissioner DuBose's question about the 9,000 to 12,000 user and the user tiers. In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Burnham discussed the impact of water usage restriction periods of time being lasting conservation changes and as such the rate structure is re-calibrated.

In response to questions about the drought surcharge, Mr. Carbon indicated removal of the surcharge would have to be addressed separately after the rate structure is changed.

Mr. Burnham responded to Mayor Seiler's question as to why there is no charge for use over 20,000 gallons on the sewer side.

Commissioner DuBose questioned if the percentage increase is large enough to maintain the City's AA bond rating. Mr. Burnham believed that given the other factors the recommendation is very good. The City Manager added there is no single factor

that increases or decreases a bond rating. The goal is to find a balance. In the changing economic environment, it is unknown whether the old rules apply. Commissioner DuBose clarified his concern has to do with the rating agency specifically making that request of the City. Mr. Burton expanded on how the rating agencies perceive rate adjustments; that the City's status has to do with extraneous things to their decision process. The goal is to not over-burden any one class at any one time. The fixed charge can be moved up in subsequent years.

Mr. Burnham addressed the slide on the service availability fee.

Mr. Carbon reviewed the slide on recommendations and conclusions. It is proposed there be two public hearings at the July meetings with rating being effective in August, 2009.

Mr. Carbon responded to Commissioner Rogers' questions about the WaterWorks 2011 project, indicating a timeframe of September, late October for a bond issue, meeting debt service, required reserves and operating capital. With approval to move forward with the recommended rate adjustment, WaterWorks 2011 will proceed as planned. Commissioner Rogers indicated that considering this project helps him come to terms with the percentage increase. Mr. Carbon pointed out that the City has already made an investment in its infrastructure through this project. The rate structure is lower because of planning.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom's question, Mr. Carbon advised that the plan is for two \$80 million issuances this year and late 2010; although a reimbursement resolution up to \$90 million would lower the subsequent one.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about the small user's monthly fee with the increase. Mr. Carbon noted the rate would be \$23.60 or an increase of \$2.15, 10%. He went on to note that 66% of the City's customers are at 7,000 gallons or below. Mr. Burnham further explained for the overall utility the revenue need is 20%. Because of the rate design changes, the impact differs for each type of customer. Over half of the residential customers consumer 5,000 gallons or below and those customers will have an increase of \$5.50 or less. Mr. Carbon indicated that 90% of the use is residential. Mayor Seiler wanted an environmental angle presented to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mr. Carbon indicated that the rate is projected out to 2018 and takes into account expansion and reuse at the wastewater treatment plant. Also, there is a water conservation ordinance being brought before the Commission at tonight's meeting.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Carbon explained that a 20% increase would be done in August 2009 with no increases in 2010 and 5% in October, 2011. Commissioner Rogers asked about spreading the 19% instead of all at once. Mr. Burton explained one reason not to do so would be to preserve the debt service coverage at 1.25 level. In such case, Mr. Carbon indicated such an alternative would be 15% and 10%.

Commissioner Rodstrom requested information on inactive accounts and future projects after 2011.

Commissioner Rogers and Mayor Seiler wanted data on the minimum required to meet debt service. Mr. Carbon indicated the minimum 1.25% will not achieve the AA rating.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 3:14 P.M.

The City Commission shall meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute 286.011(8) regarding evaluation of the following:

AG Realty Fort Lauderdale, LLC v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County Circuit Court Case 09-02937(19).

Albert Moustakis v. City of Fort Lauderdale, United States Court of Appeals for Eleventh Circuit Court Case 08-13809.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 3:51 P.M.

Continuation of Item I-A

In response to the request to spread the 20% over a longer period of time discussed before the closed door session, Mr. Carbon provided a water and sewer system financial management program summary that shows the 20% further spread out. Mr. Burton explained that there is only two months between the August increase and the first day of the 2010 fiscal year, therefore the increase covers 2010. Mr. Burnham added the August increase is essentially a fourteen month increase.

Mayor Seiler summarized there is acceptance that something has to be done to meet bond covenants and so forth. He suggested that the commissioners meet with Mr. Carbon with the City Manager's assistance and an update be provided at a June meeting on the rate increase percentages. There was no objection to public hearings being advertised for July.

Mr. Burnham responded to Commissioner Rodstrom's question as to why the 25% increase at this point when increases have ranged 3%-5% and will return to that in future years, indicated it probably the biggest reasons are drought conditions and use restrictions. Water sales have decreased some 23% since 2005. Commissioner DuBose pointed out if the bond rating is not maintained, costs will increase. Mr. Carbon outlined the purpose of the funding. Mayor Seiler pointed out that the small adjustments have not captured significant increases in fuel and insurance for example. Mr. Carbon noted the system was fully covered but a gap occurred in 2006, There is a three-year trend. This one-time adjustment is necessary and then go back on the track of small, incremental adjustments.

Mr. Carbon noted this presentation is on the City's website. Information will be provided on utility bills.

I-B -- Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Police Department Overtime Budget

Frank Adderley, Police Chief, said overtime was budgeted for \$3.3 million for this fiscal year. Last year, \$5.3 million was spent, and the projected amount for this year is \$6.1 million. There is \$1.5 million in salary savings which generally covers added overtime expenses. There was an additional \$800,000 COLA expense and \$463,000 for the crime fighting initiative. A total of \$2.8 million is requested, taking into account salary savings, increased COLA expense and the citywide crime fighting initiative. Without the

COLA and crime fighting initiative, the overtime cost would be the same as the previous year.

Mayor Seiler asked why an amount consistent with last year's expenditures was not included in the budget. The City Auditor agreed that a higher number should have been included in the budget which had been his recommendation. Vice Mayor Roberts said that overtime has consistently been under-budgeted. Salary savings were used.

Mayor Seiler reviewed the ten-year history. The City Auditor explained there was always enough money in the overall budget, but historically salaries were budgeted at 100% and overtime was not included. It had to do with the budget categories. In prior years, it was a wash, but this year positions were not budgeted at 100%, which he has recommended as it is reflective of the actual environment. However, the overtime budget should have been increased. Essentially overtime has exceeded the 3% attrition factor as well as additional items that were not factored in.

Norm Mason, Assistant Management and Budget Director, explained that three factors occurred this year. Payroll attrition was introduced which eliminated \$1.5 million. There has been three consecutive years of a COLA and overtime is now based on higher salary levels. City-wide crime initiatives were introduced.

Mayor Seiler felt this is a budget mistake. The amount is about the same as last year if the COLA is considered and is in fact lower than 2005-2006. The City Manager did not believe mistakes were made. The previous Commission was very concerned about overtime. Direction to the department was to live within the means provided and to stretch their resources. Commissioner Rogers noted the same amount was budgeted for the last three years. Mayor Seiler noted it was exceeded every year.

In response to Vice Mayor Roberts, Shonda Singleton Taylor, Acting Management and Budget Director, advised that the recommendation is to transfer monies from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) holding account. Vice Mayor Roberts indicated it would be savings from the in-car video camera program. Chief Adderley clarified that money for the camera program was in the Police Department budget.

Mayor Seiler recalled when the camera program was first presented, it was noted that money could not be used for this purpose. In response to Mayor Seiler's question, the City Manager advised that the proposal is to use \$2.8 million from the CIP citywide holding account; the cameras are not part of that account. Vice Mayor Roberts recommended the money saved on the cameras be used. In response to Vice Mayor Roberts, the City Auditor indicated the funding is all from capital projects. It is important for the Commission to know which capital projects will not be accomplished as a result. Vice Mayor Roberts thought there were fuel savings. Ms. Taylor noted a memorandum was submitted and approved by the previous Commission, that revenue shortfalls would be addressed with fuel savings.

Commissioner Rogers asked about saving ideas on overtime. Chief Adderley indicated this amount was calculated using the zero-based budgeting method. The street crimes unit could be put back into patrol, but then the proactive unit would no longer exist. Discussion turned to possible savings with shift changes. As to whether shift changes are a contractual matter, the City Attorney believed the City would have a favorable

chance of prevailing. As to case law, it is an employment practices issue and depends on the facts of each particular jurisdiction.

Mayor Seiler was impressed with the work of the Police Department, especially the street crimes unit. This is not about performance, but about budgeting. It may be attributable to the previous Commission being hardline on overtime.

Commissioner Rogers agreed. If \$2.8 million is going to be allocated, the Commission has a right to know how it will be spent.

Vice Mayor Roberts agreed. He noted that there are safeguards as to how the money is spent based on particular action plans. In order to make the street crimes unit effective, he believed the Police Chief will advise that this extra money is needed.

Commissioner Rogers believed they need to find another way of doing business because this is a different economy.

Commissioner DuBose agreed. The Commission should look at everything for cost savings and be consistent with that practice.

Chief Adderley responded to questions raised by Commissioners DuBose and Rodstrom concerning officers coming onboard after completing the training program, the vacancy rate and how that factors into the overtime need. Commissioner Rodstrom was concerned that overtime is needed because the City cannot get the necessary number of officers on the street, which also means additional impact on the pension. Mr. Mason clarified that overtime does not influence the pension.

The City Manager elaborated on how the vacancy rate is a factor in the overtime allocation. The policy decision made was for all departments to live within their means and lower their costs. Whatever amount is decided now will have to be built into next year's budget, so it will likely increase. Mayor Seiler was concerned that nothing was done to reduce overtime operationally, a cause and effect. Commissioner Rogers reiterated he wanted to know how the \$2.8 million will be spent. Mr. Mason explained historically the total salaries and wages character of the budget was never exceeded, therefore a budget amendment was not needed. The vacancies absorbed the overage.

Vice Mayor Roberts pointed out that the process takes time, but he assumed the Police Chief has action plans in place. There is no quick fix. There is a need to address crime in a difficult economy. Crime and public safety is different when reviewing the budget. Commissioner Rogers explained he has no idea how much of the \$2.8 million will be directed to the street crimes unit. He wanted to see the action plans. Chief Adderley offered to meet privately with commissioners individually. Commissioner Rogers indicated he would be interested in know whether shift adjustments would make a difference and whether part-time employees could be hired. Chief Adderley indicated that part-time is a contractual issue. Shift changes could be considered for October, but he would not suggest it be done now.

Commissioner DuBose agreed with Commissioner Rogers; there should be a citywide concept of tightening the belt and looking at alternatives. The overtime amount differs by employee.

Mayor Seiler indicated that as a new government body, they need to come up with a plan to reduce overtime. In this way there will be a policy decision that has made a difference. He was interested in lowering it below \$2 million on the long-term.

Commissioner Rodstrom wanted the Auditor to be involved also. She pointed out that all departments are being asked to tighten their belts. In response to her question about other items that contribute to the overtime level, Chief Adderley said there are unplanned events such as protests. Officers attending a homeowner association meeting is not overtime, unless a specific individual is requested.

Mayor Seiler recommended this be approved and the City Manager meet with each member of the Commission as to the plan to work to the end of the year. During the summer, the Commission needs to address reducing overtime to under \$2 million as permanent policy and long-term goal.

The City Auditor suggested that next year's budget list categories of events eligible for reimbursement separately, segregating them from regular overtime.

Mayor Seiler noted there were four events that cost the City extensively could not have been anticipated.

Commissioner Rogers suggested half of the funding be approved with staff returning in three months.

Chief Adderley responded to Commissioner Rodstrom's question regarding the overtime process, that the amount is time and a half and volunteers are sought. Vice Mayor Roberts said that longevity is not an issue, as most have been onboard less than five years. He added that some individuals assigned to federal task forces receive a lot of overtime for which the City is reimbursed to some extent, but put into the General Fund.

The City Auditor emphasized the Commission needs to know what capital projects are not being funded in order to cover overtime costs.

Mayor Seiler recommended and there was consensus approval for half of the funding request, with an update on July 7 regarding how it is being spent. The City Manager and City Auditor are to research how other agencies are battling overtime and provide a recommendation.

Vice Mayor Roberts requested clarification on the source of the \$1.3 million for the evening meeting.

I-C – Going Green in Fort Lauderdale

Kathleen Gunn, Assistant To The City Manager, and Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, presented slides on the study. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. This report is in response to the Commission's request from the May 5 meeting. The City has a multi-disciplinary team that has been working on green issues for approximately one year directed through Public Works. Ms. Gunn advised the City recently received \$2 million (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant) and needs to now present the City's conservation strategy to the Department of Energy. Up to \$250,000 in funding is available for the strategy. Staff would like to bring someone

onboard to assist with establishing a baseline and make recommendations on where monies should be expended. Overall this is very much an educational process. Some green technologies are still not cost effective, therefore, decisions on the importance of greenhouse gas emissions need to be made. Staff does not know the tangible benefits, only estimates.

In response to Mayor Seiler's question, Ms. Gunn said there are federal dollars to pay for the audit, but she did not have an exact figure at this time. There are rumors that companies are doing the audit for free in hopes of obtaining some work later. As these are stimulus funds, it has to be spent within a very prescribed timeframe. The City Manager indicated that assuming the Commission is comfortable with these ideas, staff would move forward as the audit is being conducted. Staff will return with a concrete plan on solar roofs.

Ms. Gunn continued with the slide presentation.

Ms. Gunn responded to Vice Mayor Roberts' questions about the time frame within which the funds have to be expended. She went on to note the process. Vice Mayor Roberts did not want to pay a fulltime consultant for the work and suggested possibly a university could assist. Ms. Gunn explained that the City has to be assured that whoever doing the work can assuredly complete the work within the timeframe. She agreed there are things to explore.

I-D – Code Amendment – Abatement of Public Nuisances

Valerie Bohlander, Director of Building Services, introduced Mike Maloney, Code Enforcement Manager, explained the proposed ordinance combines all types of nuisances. It will allow the City to move on an emergency basis to board-up a house where there is a safety issue, for example. The current ordinance does not recoup costs. The proposal reduces the process time by one-third. It saves administrative costs. It is more likely under this ordinance to collect more of the City's costs with respect to liens and properties being sold. along with the current ordinance, would provide the authority for the City to go on property and abate nuisances, and then lien a property for incurred costs. This would be an umbrella ordinance combining all nuisances, and would enable them to move on an emergency basis and be more cost effective.

Mr. Maloney responded to the Commission's questions concerning appeal process and notice. He offered to look into providing notices in languages in addition to English.

Commissioner Rogers noted there is no definition for vacant dwelling. He questioned the meaning of enclosed structure. In Section 18-5(c) the time for removal is not included. Mr. Maloney indicated the intent is ten days. He felt it was left open to provide flexibility if there was an emergency. In the boarding-up section, Commissioner Rogers saw no exception for the case of fire, hurricane or other casualties. Mr. Maloney believed there is an emergency clause in the ordinance. In Section 18-11, Commissioner Rogers was concerned about the provision for swimming pool walls and floor not being free of dirt or other matter. Mayor Seiler thought the section (18-11) on swimming pools is not clear; he went on to cite some examples. He suggested staff look for an example from another city.

Commissioner Rogers noted the definition of derelict needs attention.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Attorney indicated a willingness to try this although it is pressing the envelope on due process.

There was consensus approval to address the points noted and schedule it for first reading.

I-E – Code Amendment – Regulations For Placement of Newsracks in City Rights-of-Way

Valerie Bohlander, Director of Building Services, explained all newsracks need to be at 54 inches; previously the language provided for them not to exceed that height.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom's question, Ms. Bohlander advised that existing newsracks would be grandfathered-in.

Ms. Bohlander indicated a charge for storage and removal has been inserted. She indicated that overall staff is pleased with the ordinance's impact on the appearance of the community.

Note: The City Commission recessed at 5:35 p.m. and continued the conference meeting at 9:29 p.m. (Agenda Item I-F Broward League of Cities Issues Survey) in the City Commission meeting room on the first floor of city hall.

I-F – Broward League of Cities Issues Survey – Programs and Committees

Mayor Seiler felt the top three issues are budget, the economy and public safety. There was consensus approval. For "other issues", Mayor Seiler suggested environmental, home rule threats. Commissioner Rodstrom suggested economic development. There was consensus approval. Mayor Seiler asked Commissioner Rodstrom to complete the remaining questions.

I-G – Proposed Lien Settlements – Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board Cases

Commissioner Rogers questioned the lien settlement policy of 25%. Valerie Bohlander, Director of Building Services, indicated that staff has heard the Commission; it is being reevaluated. Commissioner Rogers understood the need for flexibility, but if there has been an ongoing violation, there needs to be a penalty for length of time.

There was no objection to the proposed settlements.

III-A – Communications to City Commission and Minutes circulated for the period ending May 14, 2009

Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board

In response to Commissioner DuBose, Alfred Battle, CRA Director, noted the board's position is similar to the position of the Commission, that being no in favor of an expansion as it was proposed by Broward County. Additionally, the board was

concerned about the process by which the expansion scenario came before the City Commission originally. Generally, the board is against the expansion as it exists today, but not against revisiting the issue with other alternatives, such as full TIF or a totally new CRA for that area.

Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board

In response to Mayor Seiler, Donald Morris, Beach CRA Director, indicated the concern raised by Mr. Yaari was that some major property owners were not sufficiently consulted during development of the (Beach) Master Plan. It was requested that before the plan comes to the Commission, it comes back before the board and that the ten largest property owners be consulted.

Commissioner Rodstrom noted there were stakeholder meetings with the consultant. She was certain that Mr. Yaari was included. She did not want to delay the plan and questioned the cost impact to do so. Mayor Seiler noted the board unanimously adopted a motion asking that the plan come back to them once more. Commissioner Rodstrom did not want to incur additional expense. Greg Brewton, Director of Planning and Zoning, indicated that staff could bring the plan to the board instead of the consultant. Mayor Seiler wanted to respect the unanimous request; he felt staff could make the presentation. Commissioner Rodstrom did not want too long of a delay or additional cost; people have been waiting anxiously for the plan to be completed. In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Morris indicated the next meeting if June 15, but he did not think they could be ready. He wanted to find out the concerns. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated if changes are made for the board, then the plan will not be what was presented to the public and require another public hearing. She wanted to make sure the public is accommodated. Mr. Morris believed the primary concern was that some people felt the major property owners were not sufficiently consulted and input provided before the final zoning portion of the plan was presented. Commissioner Rodstrom pointed out zoning was not in the plan; it is a guide for making recommendations to the Commission who will then decide based upon public input. Mr. Morris agreed, but that was the concern.

The City Manager explained typically when a property owner sees something in a master plan that is very specific to their property, sometimes it requires clarification. Typically they are invited to meet with staff. He did not think the consultant would be needed. He suggested a general invitation to the property owners. Staff will go back to the board one more time. Most of the time concerns can be resolved.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Brewton indicated if this additional exchange was not done, the plan would be coming to the Commission in the fall. Mayor Seiler asked staff to meet with the ten major stakeholders as well as bring the plan back to the board in June. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated she will correspond with her constituency that this will occur and that they may attend. Mr. Brewton indicated that Mr. Morris will have to provide the stakeholder list. Mayor Seiler consented to Mr. Morris asking that he be afforded more time and thus not schedule for June.

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, indicated that he attended the meeting at George English Park, but there no consensus reached. The main issue has to do with an agreement with the School Board for \$150,000 to be used for baseball at George

English Park baseball field only. There is also a belief that the money was to be used to light the baseball fields. There is now discussion about use of the money somewhere else in the park. Bayview School also has ideas about use of the money.

Vice Mayor Roberts noted that the baseball and soccer groups are in concert on this. It will continue to be vetted more. He felt there will be limitations based on the agreement. It is being handled. Mr. Thornburg indicated staff will be ascertaining pricing for lighting.

Mayor Seiler summarized additional items highlighted by the board. Mr. Thornburg responded to his question about North Side School using Warfield Park to temporarily house portable units. He noted the School Board sought the board's input; it is similar to what was done at George English. This matter will eventually come to the Commission. Mayor Seiler asked when the matter comes to the Commission that the board's recommendation be included.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Thornburg clarified two issues of Holiday Park's use for overflow parking from War Memorial and consideration of marketing that as opportunities for revenue. The bigger issue is heavy weekends. Staff will be developing a plan.

III-B – Consensus Board and Committee Vacancies

See Regular Meeting Agenda Item R-04 for detail.

IV - City Commission Reports

Mills Pond Park; moving fire station

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, responded to Commissioner Rodstrom that Mills Pond Park is zoned Park. Commissioner Rodstrom referred to her question at the May 5 meeting concerning a possible referendum or ordinance to prohibit the sale, lease or conveyance of park land and that the City Manager was not aware of any. She was able to find an ordinance that was enacted during the City Manager's tenure. The Commission has already voted on moving the fire station. She was concerned about land use at the County level. She voted on it based on staff's indication that they were not aware of any ordinance. Then she received a note from Parks and Recreation, indicating there was such an ordinance. She provided the ordinance to the City Attorney and asked for his opinion.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Thornburg indicated that he did not fully and correctly respond previously. He noted his recollection and what he found when checked. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated that both votes were unanimous, but the information from staff came after the vote. She pointed out that the City Manager had responded to her that he was not employed by the City at the time, which is not in fact correct and she voted based on an incorrect recommendation. She will have to apologize to the County Commission. She would have voted differently with the correct information.

The City Manager noted that the Director of Parks and Recreation answered a question off the fly and when he realized it was incorrect, he sent a correction a day later. He was

not employed by the City for the first reading and the second reading occurred on the first meeting he attended. He had no background or history with this item.

Hortt school property conveyance

Commissioner Rogers announced on April 28th Broward County conveyed the Hortt school property to the City.

Sistrunk Gala

Commissioner DuBose announced the upcoming Sistrunk Gala on May 30.

Riverland Library

Commissioner DuBose indicated there is talk that Broward County may close Riverland Library. The community is very concerned.

Water flushing along 31st

In response to Commissioner DuBose's question about repetitive water flushing along 31st, Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, explained the free chlorination of the City's water lines that began on May 2 and will conclude on May 23. Staff tries to direct the water to useful areas where possible.

Swimming Hall of Fame

Vice Mayor Roberts noted a recent event he attended at the Swimming Hall of Fame and emphasized the importance of the facility being shown in the Aquatic Complex redevelopment proposal as a facility for competition, and diving and training in the future. It should be identified as the Swimming Hall of Fame, not Aquatic Complex. Competitors around the world know the facility as Swimming Hall of Fame.

Exit 66 Grand Opening

Vice Mayor Roberts thought the Exit 66 grant opening was impressive.

FOP and Firefighters Collective Bargaining

Vice Mayor Roberts was concerned that the FOP and Firefighters collective bargaining negotiations will be starting this week but the Commission has not had the opportunity to give direction. The City Manager was awaiting receipt of the proposals before discussing with the Commission.

Homeowner Associations

Commissioner Rogers suggested the Commission make arrangements for the City Manager to attend and make presentations at homeowner association meetings in their districts.

Bridges

Vice Mayor Roberts received confirmation that information is forthcoming concerning bridges.

City – County Joint Meeting

Mayor Seiler complimented staff on their work associated with the City – County joint meeting.

Downtown Development Authority 1st Annual Meeting

Mayor Seiler invited the Commission to the upcoming 1st annual meeting of the Downtown Development Authority.

Memorial Day ceremony; Memorial Gardens

Mayor Seiler invited the Commission to the Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Gardens.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mayor Seiler wanted to plan a St. Patrick's Day parade, involving the community. He elaborated upon some of the history he had found and ideas about it. March 20 was suggested.

V – City Manager Reports

None given.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:14 p.m.