

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
CITY COMMISSION
FORT LAUDERDALE
September 9, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Seiler on the above date, City Commission Meeting Room.

Roll call showed:

Present: Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts
Commissioner Charlotte E. Rodstrom
Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose
Commissioner Romney Rogers
Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

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	None

Invocation was offered by Reverend Jim McNaul, The Place Ministries, followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Marc Dickerman.

NOTE: All items were presented by Mayor Seiler unless otherwise shown, and all those desiring to be heard were heard. Items discussed are identified by the agenda number for reference. Items not on the agenda carry the description "OB" (Other Business).

Presentations

1. Fleet Plan – Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (PRES-01)

Diana Alarcon, Director of Parking and Fleet Services, advised with new criteria the proposed number of vehicle replacements has been reduced from 177 to 106 and \$3.3 million. She outlined the review and analysis procedures anticipated for the coming year before any item is brought to the Commission. She will be working with departments to develop a fleet pool that will improve utilization of equipment and vehicles and shared opportunities that could lead to more reductions. She noted that \$1.82 million was saved in the 2008-2009 fleet plan.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about those being carried over from 2008. Ms. Alarcon indicated the current plan is to eliminate them, but some departments have concerns. If they need to be added, they will come back as a supplemental plan for Commission approval.

Mayor Seiler announced that the Fleet Plan is available on the City's web site.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Tentative Millage Rate and Budget**(PH-01)****No Current Year Budgetary Impact.**

Mayor Seiler announced that this is the first of two public hearings to be held as required by law on the millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. He opened the hearing and noted its purpose.

Shonda Singleton-Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, presented slides on the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 millage and budget. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, presented slides on the Capital Improvement Program Plan (CIP) including mention of those items that will come back to the Commission during the year. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. Not included in the slide presentation, he noted there are plans to add three projects to the five-year capital improvement plan, with funding to be determined: 1) beach master plan; 2) South Andrews Avenue business area master plan; and 3) Davie Boulevard master plan. A bond issue is anticipated for the WAVE after the other parties come to the table with funding. An amount of \$2.2 million has been requested.

Ms. Singleton-Singleton-Taylor summarized the actions requested this evening. The second public hearing is scheduled for September 23, 2009 at 7 p.m. The proposed budget is accessible at Broward County libraries, and on the City's web site.

Mayor Seiler opened the public hearing.

Barbara Weinstein, representing Family Central, provided statistics regarding their services to children in Fort Lauderdale including the number on the wait list. Matching funds are required in order to receive federal and state funding. She noted what the City's contribution last year accomplished. Only 1.6% of their budget goes toward administrative costs. She asked for the City's continued support. Mayor Seiler noted the same amount of funding has been included in the budget.

Edith Lederberg, representing the Area-Wide Council on Aging, indicated they are mandated to raise a local 10% match in order to receive state and federal funding. She explained the formula the Council uses to reach a dollar amount for each of the cities. Provided. She provided statistics and locations where the Council funding is used for services to the elderly in Fort Lauderdale. She asked the Commission to consider increasing the amount provided in the budget.

Wil Trower, representing the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, requested continued funding for windstorm protection at their facility. Mayor Seiler advised funding is included in the budget.

Robert Walsh, 401 East Las Olas Boulevard, was pleased to see no layoffs or furloughs. He supported the budget proposal. When possible, he requested a public restroom be constructed on State Road A-1-A.

Lillian Small, representing the Sistrunk Historical Festival, discussed the importance of keeping Dr. Sistrunk's name remembered and the Sistrunk Historical Festival. She assured that there are more than enough people dedicated to planning festival events that will occur throughout the year and on that assurance, requested the continued funding. She mentioned some new events planned in 2010.

John Casbarro, representing Kids and the Power of Work (KAPOW), outlined the KAPOW program. There are City employees who volunteer the time for this program. Funding is requested to assist with expanding this program from North Side Elementary School to include Lauderdale Manors Elementary. He noted other cities that contribute to this program and requested the City's support.

Eddy Powell, representing Lauderdale Manors Elementary School, stated their theme this year is making a difference in the community. On behalf of the KAPOW program, he requested the Commission's help to make their school and the community a better place.

Sheryl Schwab, representing Women in Distress, noted the services provided by Women in Distress. She noted their expansion to Deerfield Beach and the increased capacity. They have also secured space through a partnership with Broward Regional Health for a satellite location in Fort Lauderdale to facilitate access to services. She thanked the Commission for the Community Development Block Grant funds and their ongoing support.

Marc Dickerman, a member of the Budget Advisory Board, indicated by a vote of 5-2, the board endorsed the budget in principle. He thanked the Commission for reinstituting the board. The board anticipates continuing to meet. He invited the public to attend. He urged the City Manager to appoint Ms. Singleton-Singleton-Taylor as a permanent director. Staff has been very responsive to the board.

Fred Carlson, 625 Orton Avenue, felt the federal government will make funding reductions to local government. He felt economic times and unemployment will get worse. He urged a more aggressive approach to finding efficiencies, cost controls and zero-based budgeting. He supported the proposal to cut vacant positions. Unexpended funds should be put back to the general fund. He supported staff and their work. He questioned the Fire Rescue Department budget being on the tax bill instead of the City budget.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Commissioner DuBose to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor advised that once the budget is adopted, policy information will be included in that document. The Commission received the current adopted budget where this information is included.

Commissioner Rodstrom was looking at this process over a two-three year process. She was not pleased with this budget. The outgoing Commission directed staff to commence workshops immediately and to look into a three to five year strategic plan. She did not feel the workshops were started soon enough. She did not feel the staff used strategic zero-based budgeting and therefore the Commission is at an extreme disadvantage to make a policy decision this year and the next couple of years. She commented on the unusual economic times as well as when the City's reserve was depleted and a 24% tax increase was put in place. She commented on this Commission's platform. She pointed out that the pension liability has not been fully funded, thus the City is not in the position one would think when looking at the reserve balance. The public needs to receive correct information about the financial picture.

Commissioner Rodstrom was not comfortable with use of the \$10 million. Ms. Singleton-Taylor explained that there was a \$30 million gap which included a shortfall on both the revenue and expenditure sides. She referred to the solutions and inclusion of non-discretionary increases for pension of \$7.1 million. Part of the \$10 million was used for this purpose. The \$10 million would be used at the end of the year if needed. The budget is monitored on a monthly basis by department and that information is reported to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated the current unfunded pension liability is \$169.5 million for police and fire and \$115.5 million for general employees. The City Auditor indicated the total Other Post Employment Benefits (OPED) liability is roughly \$43 million. He concurred with the other figures furnished by Ms. Singleton-Taylor.

Commissioner Rodstrom referred to Page 4 of the slide presentation, noting the losses and questioned relying on the \$1.8 million in revenue from the Red Light Camera Program when the program has not yet been implemented. The City Manager explained that the budget is a projection of estimated revenues and expenses. Commissioner Rodstrom objected to including it as a revenue.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Ms. Singleton-Taylor advised that the Fleet Auction revenue is recurring and could be anywhere from \$700,000 to \$1 million.

Commissioner Rodstrom estimated there is \$32.5 million in shortfall and noted the shortfall reflected on Page 5 of the slide presentation. The City Manager clarified that the proposed budget is balanced based on reductions made in expenses, along with additional revenues included. There is no shortfall. Mayor Seiler indicated the Commission will debate the estimates, but with those estimates, the budget is balanced.

Commissioner Rodstrom continued on Page 5 of the slide presentation. In response to her questions about the Frozen Vacant Positions, Ms. Singleton-Taylor explained there are 67 vacant positions no longer funded in the budget for \$3.8 million. At the previous budget meeting, the presentation reflected 68 positions. Commissioner Rodstrom understood there are still 68 funded vacancies at \$3.6 million plus. Ms. Singleton-Taylor referred to the vacancy analysis provided as Exhibit 7A provides a vacancy analysis.

Vice Mayor Roberts referred to the Auditor's report that identified an additional 68 positions and a potential savings of \$3.68 million (August 28, 2009). However, the report provided today (from the Office of Management and Budget) indicates that many

of the vacancies were filled, leaving the savings now at \$2.756 million. He recalled the Commission's freeze on filling vacancies. He was concerned that the freeze was not adhered to.

Mayor Seiler indicated that it appears that three of the positions in the Auditor's analysis were already included in the funding reduction list. Norman Mason, Assistant Director of Management and Budget confirmed that as accurate. Mayor Seiler remarked that some positions show a hire date after the date the Commission froze vacancies. The City Manager understood the direction was to freeze non-mandatory positions. There were only a handful. One was the Building Official position.

Valerie Bohlander, Director of Building Services, advised that the Building Official is vital.

Vice Mayor Roberts noted the savings changed from \$3.6 million to \$2.7 million. He wanted reconciliation information before the next hearing. The City Manager explained that a majority of the positions listed by the Auditor are not in the general fund, for example. Vice Mayor Roberts requested simpler list. Mayor Seiler requested the fund be included. Ms. Singleton-Taylor and Mr. Mason offered further clarification of the documentation provided on this topic. Mayor Seiler felt more savings could be achieved; he asked each of these positions be justified with the Commission individually before the next meeting. The City Auditor indicated his original analysis was based on payroll projection used to prepare the budget or a snapshot of a point in time. It is possible from the time that projection was printed to the time the budget was published; there may have been some movement.

Mayor Seiler asked the **Auditor to respond to the vacancy analysis** produced on September 4 by this Friday and provide that response to the Commission.

Commissioner Rodstrom continued on Page 5 of the slide presentation and requested more information about **how operating expenses are anticipated to be reduced** by \$3.6 million. Ms. Singleton-Taylor indicated this was part of the zero-based budgeting approach. Without justification, monies were removed from departmental budget requests. A total by department was provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about the \$156,000 in other professional services (Planning and Zoning). Greg Brewton, Director of Planning and Zoning, explained that various plans presented to the Commission are funded over a 2-3 year period instead of one year. It would not be recurring. Commissioner Rodstrom concluded the \$3.6 million is non-recurring. Mr. Brewton further explained some savings has been achieved by staff complete some work in-house. Ms. Singleton-Taylor reiterated the justification process that occurs. The City Manager added that staff was also asked to make additional budget reductions.

Commissioner Rodstrom noted that the **Commission did not make any reductions to their budget.**

Commissioner Rodstrom asked how much of the budget savings is **non-recurring**. The City Auditor stated if one is interested in what will be available to fill the gap in next year's budget, then everything (Page 5) is essentially as non-recurring. If revenues continue to fall and expenses increase for another \$30 million gap next year, these items would not be available again. The City Manager pointed out if a \$100 budget is cut by

\$10, next year's budget starts with \$90 and no \$10 hole. Thus, non-recurring cannot accurately be used on the expense side. The City Auditor indicated it depends on next year's gap because next year the budget could be \$95. The question is what sources can be used to fill the gap. One cannot go to the same source twice. Additional cuts will be needed.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom's about funding sources for next year's gap, the City Auditor explained that budgeting in government is a four-legged stool: revenues of taxes or fees; personnel, wages and a fund balance.

Commissioner Rodstrom emphasized the importance of doing a very good job with this budget to avoid a huge problem next year. The unknown gap next year could lead to layoffs or a budget increase. This is the most important policy decision made by this body. Based upon another 10% loss in revenue next year, the City would use a considerable amount of reserves next year which could lead to layoffs or a tax increase or both. There are many unanswered questions.

Vice Mayor Roberts agreed it is important to set the table for next year's budget with this budget. True **zero-based budgeting** is needed. He proposed establishing a system where there are more frequent budget hearings, wherein departments would make presentations early; November-January to avoid getting to a point of layoffs or service cuts. He wanted the staff to use the **Budget Advisory Board's recommendations**. He wanted particularly to consider zero-based budgeting and an **analysis of the roles of all supervisory positions**. He emphasized the **priority of public safety**. He also wanted to direct staff to develop a five-year plan similar to the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. More strategic planning is needed.

Commissioner DuBose agreed with much of his colleagues' comments. He was pleased with the City's standing. He agreed with his colleagues and suggested looking at what a **four-day workweek** would accomplish in savings.

Commissioner Rogers felt this budget is a good start. He was pleased with the freezing of positions, the percentage of reserve, and overall the work of staff and the City's standing without increasing taxes or fees. He noted that there is a reduction in almost every department. He agreed with the twelve **recommendations of the Budget Advisory Board**. He agreed with the Vice Mayor in having more meetings relating to the budget. He wanted to stay focused on implementing the board's recommendations. He hoped to make further reductions that will be meaningful next year. He looked forward to the **vacancy analysis**.

Mayor Seiler agreed the budget is on a good start. He also believed a **three to five year strategic plan is necessary and should be considered for inclusion in the charter**. He commended the Budget Advisory Board and their recommendations. He suggested **departmental zero-based budgets be presented to the board timed throughout the year**. He emphasized the **City Auditor's role** is to be critical which he considered a positive contribution to the process. He referred to direction on the vacant positions and the need for a more critical review of them. He wanted to **make sure that the Community Redevelopment Agencies are not growing in terms of staffing**. He felt the revenue estimate for the **Red Light Camera Program** should be revisited. He was not certain it would be operational for a full year of revenue. The City Attorney estimated it would be operational some time in November. Mayor Seiler was pleased

with the quality of suggestions in the **Employee Suggestion Program**. He asked that the suggestions be scheduled on a conference agenda. He emphasized the value of thorough debate of the Commission.

With respect to the Employee Suggestion Program, the City Auditor indicated there is an outstanding resolution that discusses an employee award program that is part of the suggestion process. If people realized this, it would likely generate more suggestions. Vice Mayor Roberts felt it is appropriate to reward employees for suggestions that save the City money in the long-term.

Averill Dorsett, Director of Human Resources, indicated she is responsible for the employee suggestion program. She recapped the award process and offered to provide the 1994 resolution that outlines this. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Attorney offered a more detailed explanation of the award program, indicating it is a mirror image of what has been suggested and is still in effect.

There being no further comments, Mayor Seiler announced the proposed millage rate for all general City purposes exclusive of debt service will be 4.1193 which represents a 10.465 decrease in the millage rate under the rolled-back rate of 4.5995 mills. The proposed millage rate for debt service for the 1997-2002 General Obligation Refunding Bonds is .0902. The proposed millage rate for debt service for the 2005 General Obligation Bonds is .0441.

Vice Mayor Roberts introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-206

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED BY THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the date, time and place of the final hearing on this matter.

Commissioner DuBose introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-207

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioner DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: Commissioner Rodstrom.

Fire-Rescue Special Assessment – Fiscal Year**(PH-02)****No Current Year Budgetary Impact.**

Mayor Seiler opened the hearing on the fire-rescue special assessment and noted its purpose.

Shonda Singleton-Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, stated this program provides funding for fire-rescue services and facilities. The assessment rate will remain the same at \$135 per residential parcel which will generate \$20,476,422.

There being no one wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Rodstrom and seconded by Commissioner DuBose to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: Yeas: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the proposed fire-rescue special assessment rate will be \$135 annually for each residential property, and the proposed fire-rescue special assessment rate for non-residential properties shall be as shown on the detailed rate schedule provided in the resolution approving the fire-rescue special assessment.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Jeffrey Justinak, Assistant Fire Rescue Chief, indicated there is no increase in neither the residential nor non-residential rates. The last increase occurred in 2004-2005 when the rate increased from \$63 to \$94.

Commissioner Rogers introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-208

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY; ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT IMPOSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR

SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioner DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: Commissioner Rodstrom.

**Beach Business Improvement District -
Annual Rate Assessment and Assessment Roll –
Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

(PH-03)

No Current Year Budgetary Impact.

Mayor Seiler opened the hearing on the Beach Business Improvement District special assessment and noted its purpose.

Shonda Singleton-Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, stated this district imposes a fee on certain portions of beach property within the City. The fee will remain the same at \$0.8525 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

There being no one wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Rogers to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the proposed Business Improvement District special assessment rate will be \$0.8525 per \$1,000 of assessed value annually for each business property used for commercial purposes as provided in the resolution approving this special assessment.

Vice Mayor Roberts introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-209

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT SERVICES IN A PORTION OF THE CITY; REIMPOSING BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE ASSESSMENT AREA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009; ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

**Lauderdale Isles Water Management District -
Property Assessment Rate and Budget – Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

(PH-04)

No Budgetary Impact.

Mayor Seiler opened the hearing on the Lauderdale Isles Water Management District non-ad valorem assessment and budget and noted its purpose.

Shonda Singleton-Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, stated the district adopted their 2009-2010 budget in June. The non-ad valorem assessment will remain the same at \$15 per parcel with 553 parcels for a total budget of \$8,295.

There being no one wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Vice Mayor Roberts to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the proposed Lauderdale Isles Water Management non-ad valorem assessment and budget will be \$15 annually for each property within the district.

Commissioner DuBose introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-210

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, LEVYING A NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 ON BEHALF OF THE LAUDERDALE ISLES WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE DISTRICT.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

**Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District
Tentative Millage Rate and Budget – Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

(PH-05)

No budgetary impact.

Mayor Seiler announced that this is the first of two public hearings to be held as required by law on the millage rate and budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 of the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District. He opened the hearing and noted its purpose.

Shonda Singleton-Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, stated in May the district voted a millage of 0.7500 mills to generate revenue for services in a tentative that she listed for a total of \$77,700.

There being no one wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Commissioner Rogers and seconded by Vice Mayor Roberts to close the public hearing.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the proposed millage rate for all Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District purposes will be 0.7500 mill which represents a decrease of 27.8% under the rolled-back rate of 1.0389 mills.

Commissioner DuBose introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-211

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED BY THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE FOR THE SUNRISE KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner Rodstrom introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-212

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE SUNRISE KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the date, time and place of the final hearing on this matter.

RESOLUTIONS

Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Plan 2010-2014

(R-01)

A slide presentation was made by Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, at the beginning of the meeting under Item PH-01.

Vivian Dempsey, representing South Middle River Civic Association, noted recent improvements made by the residents. The neighborhood badly needs help with sidewalks for school children and senior citizens and their safety. She mentioned specific areas.

Bell Jackson, a member of the Youth Committee for South Middle River Civic Association, brought attention to the need for funding of youth programs at Warfield Park to prevent youth from getting into trouble.

Karen Lamont of South Middle River neighborhood, referred to Page 21 of the slide presentation, South Middle River Neighborhood Improvements Master Plan Implementation, and asked this item be funded as contained in the budget request and if possible to increase it. She emphasized the need for this neighborhood not to deteriorate during these hard economic times. She commented on the work and volunteerism of residents in this area.

Bruce Tanner, a resident of Drake Towers, was concerned about lighting and safety in South Middle River. When the Gay & Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) moves out of the area, there will be even less lighting. He believed additional lighting will impact the crime level. He requested assistance in this regard and also asked that there be no funding reductions for this area.

P.J. Espinal, a resident of South Middle River, felt the Neighborhood Capital Improvement Program provides necessities for South Middle River. She asked that South Middle River be a priority to the City in its work orders and not forgotten. She mentioned that 14th and 15th streets have never been paved, for example. The neighborhood is asking for needs (sidewalks and lighting) and not just wants. She commented on the nine-year delay in replacement of water pipes. She wanted the park in South Middle River be improved so that it becomes a park and not simply grass. There are vacant buildings in the neighborhood that need to be demolished. There is a need for attention to Andrews Avenue which is a primary north-south city street. She suggested empty, clean lots be made available for sale. She also suggested people be fined for nailing fliers to trees.

Robert Alcock, president of South Middle River Civic Association, noted the general area of South Middle River. He noted there is only one exit from Interstate 95 to the Fort Lauderdale beach and that is Sunrise Boulevard. He felt Sunrise Boulevard has a long way to go. South Middle River is one of the largest neighborhoods in the city. He discussed the teamwork and earnest activism by South Middle River residents. Their community is in a prime position to take advantage of federal funding. He mentioned businesses that have invested in their neighborhood. People who live on the beach and Bayview Drive must drive through South Middle River to get to their homes, therefore improvements to South Middle River benefit more than just the residents of that neighborhood. In summary, he explained that funding is really needed and felt it should be a high priority. Items like the Sistrunk Festival and improvements to Flagler Village should be a high priority because securing of areas like South Middle River is important for the future. He ended by saying, no dream, no goal; no goal, no gets. He opposed items like improvements to the helistop are not necessary in these times. He asked that additional money be allocated for needed sidewalks and lighting.

Commissioner Rodstrom stated that South Middle River meets the criteria for CDBG funding and funding has finally been acquired after her repeated inquiries. She was concerned about leftover CDBG funds from numerous years and its use for the fire station at Mills Pond Park instead of the community. She felt the fire bond monies should have been used.

Commissioner DuBose commented that his neighborhood mirrors that of South Middle River. If community development block grant funding becomes a district thing, it could become contentious. There are twelve neighborhoods in District III just like South Middle River.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about the upfront \$250,000 for **undergrounding utility lines by special assessment**, Albert Carbon, Public Works Director, explained there are two options. With direction of the Commission, the budget could be amended and the funding appropriated at that time. The CIP Plan could be amended at any time.

The City Auditor explained there are really two issues; cash flow and budgetary. Once the money is appropriated, it could be fronted with the City being reimbursed after the fact. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Auditor indicated he would always recommend that restricted sources of revenue be established as special revenue funds.

Commissioner Rogers felt funds should be designated for the Beach Master Plan and the Davie Development Plan for ease of tracking even though they are not programmed. Mr. Carbon explained how it would be shown in the 2010-2014 CIP Plan.

With respect to undergrounding utility lines, Vice Mayor Roberts pointed out the City could lose the \$250,000 if the assessment does not pass. Mr. Carbon indicated a discussion of this matter is scheduled for October 6. Vice Mayor Roberts indicated it would be another impact on next year's budget. He wanted to discuss it at the next budget public hearing. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated that is why she wanted the money to simply be earmarked in a special fund. Vice Mayor Roberts wanted to discuss it further.

Commissioner Rodstrom introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-213

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FIVE-
YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PLAN, AS
AMENDED, FOR 2010-2014.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioners Rodstrom and DuBose, and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Mayor Seiler announced the upcoming budget hearing. There being no other matters to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jonda K. Joseph
City Clerk