

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
MAY 1, 2012

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CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:35 P.M. May 1, 2012

Present: Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler
Commissioners Bruce G. Roberts, Charlotte E. Rodstrom, Bobby B.
DuBose and Romney Rogers

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman
City Auditor John Herbst
City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney Harry A. Stewart
Sergeant At Arms Sergeant Mike Dodson
Sergeant Jose Gonzalez

I-A – Historic Preservation Design Guidelines

Dominique Hawkins of Preservation Design Partnership, LLC highlighted the process that was followed and then reviewed slides on this topic. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

Jenni Morejon, Deputy Director of Sustainable Development, explained that the guidelines will be used as a supplement to the code; it is not criteria that would be codified.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Ms. Hawkins advised that tax incentive information is shown on the last page of the introduction. Ms. Morejon explained the guidelines are formatted so that portions based on the situation can be provided as an individual leaflet. Commissioner Rogers wanted examples of cases where only administrative approval is required could be included. Ms. Hawkins indicated this could be added in the future and was not done at this time because code changes are currently underway. Ms. Hawkins and Commissioner Rogers responded to Commissioner Roberts’ question about hurricane protection and the building code. Mayor Seiler wanted the online document to be easy to use with categories such as tax incentives. He wanted to publicize that this resource is available especially to the architectural community. Commissioner Rogers agreed and suggested part of the outreach discuss how the guidelines were formulated including mention of photographs being taken in neighborhoods and so forth. Mayor Seiler added that each architectural style could be depicted with photograph examples online.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to proceed with documenting the City’s resources and make informed decisions about their preservation.

I-B – Potential Modernization of Port Everglades Plant – Florida Power and Light Company

Lynn Shatas of Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) made introductory remarks. She noted that FPL would be available to make a presentation about this topic to any group that would entertain it.

Buck Martinez, FPL Senior Director of Project Development, reviewed slides on this topic. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. He noted FPL’s bullish efforts with respect to renewable energy in Florida. In Fort Lauderdale, FPL will be deploying 25 kilowatts of solar at the Museum of Discovery and Science.

The following responses were provided to the Commission's questions: Mr. Martinez indicated that because of improved efficiency, there will be one less unit and a total of 1280 megawatts. FPL is not flexible with respect to the color. He discussed the project timeline (Slide 13) and financing ultimately by the rate payers through a process with the Public Service Commission. The system change is planned to be seamless.

Mr. Martinez added that a Manatee heating system will be installed for that time that the project is shutdown. All of the natural gas is obtained from the Gulf of Mexico. With the completion of this project, the system will be over seventy percent natural gas. He emphasized the need to diversify. However there will not be much potential for solar expansion here due to space requirements.

I-C – Red Light Camera Program

The City Manager highlighted the recent history on this item contained in Commission Agenda Report 12-0842.

Greg Parks of American Traffic Solutions (ATS), City's contractor, explained that this proposal will help offset staff costs. ATS is offering a one-time credit of \$230,000, improve billing on three of the cameras (3, 7 and 10) to make it more productive for the City and expand the program.

The following responses were provided to the Commission's questions: Mr. Parks advised that ATS has been engaged in Pembroke Pines the longest in South Florida, approximately 4 years. Their citations continue to decrease. The program has operated the longest in New York City and their citations have decreased 74 percent since 1994. Commissioner Roberts emphasized this program is about safety. Mr. Parks provided more statistical detail. Commissioner DuBose posed the thought that violations from non-residents may be individuals who reside in areas without this program. Mr. Parks agreed to provide this information. The City Manager advised that some of the issues with the court system have been rectified. He went on to outline the history of the process of these citations called uniform traffic citations (UTC). The credit offered by ATS recognizes staff's efforts in improving the process. Revenue from UTC's is about \$9,000 to \$10,000 per month. Mr. Parks believed the cost for removal of a camera would be equally shared with the City. The current contract has a term of three years; it is proposed to be extended four years from today; there is about one year remaining on the current contract. He believed the current contract has a most favored nation clause and if it does not, ATS would not object to adding one. Camera removal cost would vary, but in a range of \$25,000. He explained that the first intersections were the best that could be implemented at the time in that there were legislative constraints. Those now proposed are more dangerous based on a mathematical model. The Results from Site Selection Testing (Slide 11 on page 9 of Exhibit 1 to the commission agenda report) reflects violations per day. This page is attached to these minutes. Over time the revenue will decrease as the system works. The program is guaranteed revenue neutral with the exception of staffing cost which has been addressed by the one-time credit. As to the Financial Results (Slide 9 on page 7 of Exhibit 1 to the commission agenda report), he believed the March 2011 amount of \$150 was probably an anomaly of when the data was sent to the City. These amounts were provided by ATS. He confirmed that when the contract expires, ATS would assume one hundred percent of the camera removal cost. If a new intersection was deemed as needed, it would not necessarily mean another would need to be removed, but it could be. ATS maintains ownership of the equipment and is responsible for maintenance. As to staff impact for an increase in the number of cameras, the City Manager indicated there would be need for an increase in the number of staff reviewing and an associated cost increase. Based upon history to date, he anticipated the City would still be in a positive cash flow

situation. Clearly, officers will not be removed from patrol to perform this work. Light-duty personnel could be used.

Commissioner Rogers wanted to move more slowly on expansion. Mayor Seiler was agreeable to adding fifteen.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Marc Buoniconti, a resident of Coral Gables, supported this program. About ten percent of the revenue are given to trauma centers in Florida and \$3 of the citation goes to the Miami project to cure paralysis. The majority of spinal injuries occur from auto accidents. Statistics show that the program works.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

Mayor Seiler noted there is a consensus to add fifteen locations for a total of twenty-one.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Parks explained that the only way to overcome the issue of a citation being issued to the owner of the vehicle when someone else was driving is to photograph the driver which presents privacy concerns.

I-D – Undergrounding of Overhead Utility Lines – Idlewyld, Riviera Isles, Las Olas Isles and Seven Isles – Special Assessment Program

The City Manager highlighted the recent history on this item contained in Commission Agenda Report 12-0815. Concern was raised about reimbursement of the upfront costs if the item moved forward, but was not adopted. He raised the idea of the Commission creating a utility planning service area after a public hearing. The upfront cost would then be collected on a fee basis, using a utility bill mechanism. Mayor Seiler wanted the City to be held harmless from a cost standpoint.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

David Orshetsky, 2420 Desota Drive of Seven Isles, commented that after Hurricane Wilma, some of the underground utilities that needed to be repaired took weeks. He advocated getting some sort of handle on the engineering issues of potential restoration even after undergrounding. He asked about the cost for repair of driveways and landscaping. Also, the individual power supply must be run from the transformer to the meter. There are significant costs over and above what the Commission is discussing in this item. Commissioner Rodstrom pointed out that each residence would be assessed differently depending upon their needs. Mr. Orshetsky understood the connection from the core cost that everyone would be charged to the individual meter would not be added to the core cost. Commissioner Rodstrom clarified by indicating the thinking is that would be part of the core cost. As to repairs after a hurricane, Mr. Orshetsky believed it generally takes FPL longer to make underground repairs. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated the idea is that the frequency would be less once the lines are underground.

Tamara Tennant, president of Riviera Isles, understood that engineering involvement is needed upfront. The exact cost would then be known. Riviera Isles is requesting the City pay half of the upfront cost and each residence would pay \$15 per month for a year for the other half. The City Attorney indicated that the exact cost will not be known, but rather an estimate. For the \$312,000, the City Manager advised there will be ninety percent design for bidding purposes

versus the preliminary ballpark estimate that is generally at the thirty percent level. The City Attorney advised that the engineer will do the estimating. It will not be bid out until the engineer has estimated the cost. The City Manager advised that FPL will enter into the guaranteed price at that level. Lynn Shatas of FPL advised that once there is a firm estimate and a letter as to the cost is provided to the homeowner, it is good for 180 days. The City Attorney advised that this is the period of time FPL will guarantee the price. The petition period could be less than 180 days.

Mayor Seiler reiterated his position that the cost reimbursement must be worked out. He wanted to avoid groups coming forward, the City having to expend funds and the groups then deciding not to go forward. Ms. Tennant asked if the utility bill concept could be used. The City Attorney explained that a special assessment district must be created and an expert indicate that the drawing of plans, whether completed or not, is a benefit to the property. A determination then needs to be made as to the cost for each property in the special assessment district. Billing could then be done in whatever way is desirable. If it is placed on the water bill and someone does not pay it, the City cannot shut off their water. Tim Hall of Keith & Schnars (City's consulting coordinator for undergrounding) indicated Keith & Schnars would bring a subconsultant onboard that has experience with this type of assessment.

A general discussion ensued as to the cost wherein the City Manager outlined his review of what was done in Jupiter. He found \$750,000 as a reasonable engineering fee and the proposal from Keith & Schnars is in the \$600,000 range and below the five percent threshold on project cost. He confirmed for Commissioner Rodstrom that the twenty-five percent credit was not included. This would be deducted from the FPL cost if the City goes with their binding estimate. It is not possible to get twenty-five percent off the upfront cost.

Howard Steinholz, resident of Seven Isles, requested an outline that could be presented to homeowners.

Mayor Seiler commented that the vote threshold percentage has changed, but the issue of ensuring that the City is held harmless on cost has never changed. Mr. Steinholz's request is what the Commission set out to do today. Commissioner Rodstrom thought the only sticking point now is upfront costs. She wanted the upfront costs to be shared between the homeowners and the City. It is an infrastructure improvement and there will be an increase in property values. Using an increase in property values of \$50,000, the City would collect an additional \$206 per home per year and a total of \$165,000. Commissioner Rogers asked if there is a guarantee that the assessments for all of the properties will be increased. Commissioner Rodstrom indicated no, but pointed out that they will be re-assessed. Because it is helping both the City and the homeowners, it is a partnership. The City's job is to protect its tax base. She suggested part of the additional revenues collected from this initial project to be used to establish a neighborhood investing bank and used as seed money for future undergrounding projects.

Mary Fertig, Idlewyld Improvement Association, raised questions of a general nature on this topic including her interest in there being a tutorial for the public and a template to proceed on a citywide basis. Research on what to do about the City's infrastructure needs to be done and a decision made. Mayor Seiler estimated it would be a billion dollar burden to underground utilities citywide. He felt the City should facilitate undergrounding for neighborhoods who want it. However, in light of climate change and rising water, FPL may not recommend undergrounding. He brought attention to all of the information provided by the City Manager on this topic. Commissioner Rodstrom felt Ms. Fertig is looking for a big picture on how the City is going to handle aging infrastructure. Mayor Seiler felt each neighborhood needs to make their own

decision as to undergrounding. He elaborated upon the financial challenges of a citywide endeavor. Commissioner Rodstrom supported the City advancing the \$150,000 upfront cost and pointed out that by tackling contiguous neighborhoods there is some savings. Mayor Seiler raised the question of how the City would decide the order or priority of the neighborhoods. Commissioner Rodstrom felt this has to start somewhere and from that point, there will be seed money for future projects. Mayor Seiler pointed out that the Commission has never established a policy for undergrounding citywide.

In response to Ms. Fertig, Mayor Seiler indicated that he believed more neighborhoods will come forward once it is more widely known that the vote threshold has changed. Ms. Fertig felt the first neighborhoods are doing a public service to the community by working through this.

Commissioner Rogers pointed out the City's frugal stance generally and that he could not support the City paying for undergrounding citywide because it is not a necessity. Commissioner Rodstrom commented about the many items on agendas that are not a necessity. Commissioner Roberts questioned how the City would determine how much of an increase in ad valorem is attributed to this and then how to determine how much should be set aside. Also, he believed some thirty percent of the city's utilities are already underground. He tended to think that there should be no cost to the City. He believed that stormwater infrastructure is more important. Climate change and beach renourishment are other factors. Mayor Seiler emphasized the need for consistency in public policy. He advocated a pay as you go approach and he believed there is consensus for staff to facilitate a process. Commissioner Rodstrom thought the additional ad valorem revenue could be divided in half. One-half would be seed money as described. The other half could be used for maintenance and programming that have no revenue source. Commissioner Rogers was opposed to the creation of multiple special funds. He saw it as a loss of confidence in budgeting. Commissioner Rodstrom explained that there items that come forward all of the time that do not have a specific revenue source. Sidewalks is an example.

Ms. Fertig questioned why this topic was not included in the recent franchise renewal. She hoped the City will make a long-term decision on the topic.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, indicated that he owns a house in Riviera Isles. He did not see any advantage to overhead utilities and that undergrounding is clearly superior. He pointed out that there is not a uniform pay as you go policy in the city.

John Fitzgerald, resident of Seven Isles, advocated residents paying on their utility bill and that the cost be extended from one to two years giving special consideration for senior citizens. The City Attorney explained that a special assessment district needs to be created and it needs to be the same throughout the district. Mayor Seiler explained that a house occupied by a senior citizen could be sold but the City would have already put that house on a different payment plan. Mr. Fitzgerald did not want to see any more delay.

In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, City Manager explained the ordinance would have to be amended to accommodate such a recapture mechanism and the seventy percent approval threshold. Mayor Seiler believed there is a consensus for both items. Mr. Fitzgerald believed the voting timeframe also needs to be addressed because of the 180-day period with FPL. Mayor Seiler wanted an ordinance to be adopted before the summer.

The City Auditor brought attention to information he found on this topic and offered to email it to anyone that is interested.

The City Attorney advised that the special assessment district would be established by a separate ordinance. Mayor Seiler asked that the City Attorney move forward with this on a parallel path.

The City Attorney responded to Eugenia Ellis, Fort Lauderdale resident, who asked whether existing special districts in some neighborhoods would continue to apply. The district would not have to be redefined.

I-E – Proposed Amendments to City Charter Recommended by Charter Revision Board; Articles III, VI and VII – Government of City and Form of Government, Civil Service System and Elections

The City Attorney highlighted the Charter Revision Board's recommendations contained in Commission Agenda Report 12-0870.

As to changing municipal elections to the general elections in November, Mayor Seiler asked if it was about the cost. The City Attorney indicated that cost was discussed, but it was somewhat peripheral that the cost would be less if the City joined the presidential election process. In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Clerk advised that when the City joined the County, the cost was in the neighborhood of \$29,000. Davie also participated at that time. It depends how many other cities participate which would always be an unknown. For a stand-alone election, the cost would be \$183,000 approximately or a difference of about \$154,000. Commissioner DuBose pointed out that the timing is infrequent that the City has the opportunity to join with the County. In the last election cycle, the State changed their date as well (presidential preference). In response to Commissioner Roberts, the City Clerk confirmed that based on the current election cycle of February/March, the City's cost is in the range of \$360,000. She also confirmed for Vice Mayor Rodstrom that the cost depends on the number of districts. Mayor Seiler wanted to know the actual cost for the March election when it was not citywide. The City Clerk advised that the City has not yet received the Broward County Supervisor of Elections' bill. Mayor Seiler asked the City Clerk to secure the amount from the Supervisor. Commissioner DuBose inquired about the 2009 costs. The City Clerk indicated that the formula used by the Supervisor has changed since 2009. In further response, the City Clerk explained that even with a city joining the County, the Supervisor factors into the cost if other cities participate. The City Auditor added that there is a variable cost and a fixed cost. Commissioner DuBose did not understand the cost in November when it is simply extending the length of the ballot. The City Clerk explained that cities joining in November share in the labor costs for example. There is a complex formula. The City's cost to join in November would be about \$30,000 and there is a \$5,000 range with respect to the impact of other cities also sharing the cost. In response to the Mayor's previous question, the City Clerk advised that the total 2009 cost for both municipal elections was \$444,651.

With respect to extending terms, Mayor Seiler indicated that he could not vote to extend his own term. A general discussion ensued on various scenarios.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Dennis Ulmer, 1007 NW 11 Place, suggested shortening the term to 2014 to align the City's elections with the gubernatorial that would also be a savings. The City Attorney did not think that the Commission could shorten their terms because of a property right in the position but offered to look into it.

Commissioner Rogers pointed to the number of absentee voters. Together with early voting, people have more time. More discussion ensued with respect to extending terms. Commissioner DuBose pointed out that the concept was brought forward in a recommendation from the Charter Revision Board; it did not originate with the Commission. Both Mayor Seiler and Vice Mayor Rodstrom favored staggered terms. He drew attention to how Margate was able to change over to staggered terms. The City could hold its election with the gubernatorial cycle in 2014 and those to be staggered would be in office through March. The City Attorney noted that it is also proposed that the primary election would be eliminated. Half of the savings could be achieved by eliminating the primary. Commissioner Rogers suggested reducing the term limits to two, four-year terms. The City Attorney indicated that the number of terms was not addressed.

Mayor Seiler requested the City Clerk obtain specific dollar amounts as to election costs. He also suggested the Commission meet with their appointees on the Charter Revision Board.

With respect to the Board's recommendation to convert Article VI of the Charter pertaining to civil service to an ordinance, the City Manager explained that staff initiated this change. Civil service applies to all employees except those covered under collective bargaining and professional supervisory staff or about 250 employees. By moving the article to the code, amendments could be made by the Commission versus a Charter change. A good example of this point was changes made for the reorganization. The Civil Service Board has not met since 2003. Commissioner Rogers questioned the need for the grievance provisions if the Board has not met since that time. He wanted to give the City Manager the tools he would like to have to get the job done. Mayor Seiler agreed that based on the Board not having met for nine years, he believed the system is obsolete. Commissioner DuBose thought there had to be a reason that it was placed in the charter. In response to Commissioner DuBose, the City Attorney indicated it was placed in the charter for job protection, property rights to a particular job. Commissioner Roberts added that it also has to do with having a professional staff and to prevent corruption. Vice Mayor Rodstrom noted also they are not protected by a union. By converting the article to an ordinance, the City Attorney explained for Commissioner DuBose that it makes it easier to amend; that being three votes. Now it takes three votes and an election. Commissioner Rogers reiterated it is a question of giving the City Manager the tools he thinks he needs to do his job. In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Attorney advised it would affect less than 250 because management are not covered by civil service now. Commissioner DuBose was not inclined to favor the change. There could be another city manager in the future that the Commission would not want to have this power.

Returning to the idea of staggering terms, Commissioner DuBose wanted to know the cost for having an election every two years for two commission districts and citywide every four years for the mayor and the other two commission districts.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road, favored moving to November and holding elections every two years to keep people engaged. He felt there would be a better turnout.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom supported staggering terms so as to maintain some knowledge going forward. The City Manager felt it is an issue of government stability.

Art Seitz, 1905 N. Atlantic Boulevard, supported the change for a better turnout. He discussed campaign contributions and the desire for fresh blood in general.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

I-F – Planned Unit Development Zoning District Advisory Committee Recommendation:

Greg Brewton, Director of Sustainable Development, highlighted the chronology on this topic contained in Commission Agenda Report 12-0825. The Committee is requesting an extension in order to complete their work.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Peter Henn, member of the Committee, noted this topic previously divided the city. The Committee was formed and a consensus was reached. The proposal puts the neighbors in the process early on. There are now definitions for community and neighborhood. There must be a benefit for the community and neighborhood. There are more standards. They have tried to remove as much of the politics as possible. A developer's agreement is a requirement. The process is clearer. The Committee needs more time and has suggested six months.

Mary Fertig, member of the Committee, indicated that more time is needed for the Committee to reach out to the community. She felt it has been a positive experience.

Art Seitz, 1905 N. Atlantic Boulevard, elaborated upon how he believed the PUD ordinance benefits developers. He did not support the Central Beach Alliance being able to approve developments. The Alliance serves as the community input. It is not a neighborhood association; it has not had a quorum, attendance of more than twenty-five or an election since 2008. It is a not for profit organization and should not have been involved in a campaign as it was for Commission District II by Steven Glassman. He believed their bylaws are bogus and minutes are not taken. He objected to their elections being held by the board and not the membership.

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Mr. Brewton confirmed that there was outreach besides the Central Beach Alliance.

Ms. Fertig advised that the proposal provides for an enforcement vehicle with respect to promises made to communities by PUD applicants. There would be a pool of funds. The definition of neighborhood was expanded so that an applicant could not reach out to only one group. Overall, the Committee tried to address things that have gone wrong in the past.

Commissioner Rogers wanted more clarification on the definition of unique in Exhibit 3 to the commission agenda report and language on page 4 of this exhibit, if read alone, would require the applicant to be the property owner. He requested a summary of the ordinance be prepared. As to unique, Mr. Henn explained the goal was to create a unique standard and justification for why an applicant was not following the traditional zoning code. The point was to follow the code if it could be done that way. For those developments that do not follow the code, the proposal should be unique and they should give something back to the community and there should be eighty percent of the Commission onboard. Mr. Brewton felt from this point forward there will be a tremendous amount of community input; there will be refinements.

Mr. Brewton commented how the Committee started with members on opposite ends but they stayed focused on the issue. They are now all in agreement with what has been presented. They are requesting confirmation from the Commission that they are going in the correct

direction, and, if so, they are requesting additional time. He believed six months is needed. There was consensus for a six-month extension.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 5:02 P.M.

The City Commission shall meet privately pursuant to Florida Statutes 768.28 (16), regarding the following:

Cheryl Smith v. City of Fort Lauderdale (File 10-858C)

CLOSED DOOR SESSION ENDED AT 5:12 P.M.

Note: The City Commission recessed after the closed door session at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 10:02 p.m. addressing Item I-G in the City Commission meeting room on the first floor of City Hall.

I-G – River House Restaurant and the Bryan Homes Historic Site – 301 SW 3 Avenue

The City Manager noted that the City has been contacted over the last few months by individuals interested in exploring use of these properties. He recommended staff explore informal expressions of interests and if the Commission sees viable proposals, a formal RFP could be issued. Mayor Seiler agreed and noted that he has been approached multiple times.

Commissioner DuBose asked about the Shippey House and the parking lot and whether it would be a part of the request for letters of interest. Both Mayor Seiler and the City Manager indicated no. The City Manager explained that projects within the regional activity center do not have a specific parking requirement. In the case of the restaurant, they had wanted specific parking. This item would be to gauge what type of interest exists. Commissioner DuBose explained he had wanted to know the status of the Shippey House. The City Manager indicated that he is in the process of preparing a Commission memorandum.

There was consensus approval as recommended.

I-H – Policy for Absent City Commission and Board and Committee Members to Participate in Meetings through Communications Technology

See Regular Meeting Agenda Item CR-01.

I-I – Establishing City Attorney Search Committee and Retention of Executive Search Firm

See Regular Meeting Agenda Item CR-02.

Commissioner Roberts had been pleased with Bob Murray & Associates' performance on the city manager search. Their time frame seems a little shorter than the others in the backup. All of the pricing is in the same range. He wanted to proceed with Bob Murray & Associates. Although Mayor Seiler and Commissioner DuBose wanted to spread the work to other vendors generally speaking, Commissioner Rogers and Vice Mayor Rodstrom also favored Bob Murray & Associates, which was a majority consensus for Bob Murray & Associates.

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

There was no objection.

II-A – Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending March 31, 2012

The City Manager indicated that this is second report provided to the Commission. It is not yet in final formal. Commissioner Rogers noted comparison information that will be provided to the Commission going forward and the intention to get more investment managers involved. The City Manager advised that the City received thirty-two responses to the investment manager RFP and staff is in the process of evaluating them. The City will also be retaining an investment advisor to help monitor the performance of the investment managers.

III-A – Minutes Circulated for Period Ending April 26, 2012

The City Clerk advised that there are no board or committee communications at this time.

III-B – Board and Committee Vacancies

Note: Please see regular meeting item R-03.

City Manager Reports - None**City Commission Reports****Traffic Congestion, Colee Hammock, Las Olas Boulevard and 15 Avenue and 16 Avenue**

Vice Mayor Rodstrom elaborated upon traffic congestion in this area and the need for both herself and Commissioner Rogers to meet with residents and find a solution.

Continued on page 11.

Code Enforcement, Birch Finger Streets and Permit Fees for Home Improvements and Sunrise Lien Reduction and Permit Fee Reimbursement Incentive Program

Vice Mayor Rodstrom questioned a citation issued for a carport canopy that has been in place for thirty some years. The Director of Sustainable Development advised that a permit was required for any structure in a yard. Those canopies were generally in the front yard. The building official at the time, John Smith, made a ruling that even if it was movable, it was still considered a structure. Vice Mayor Rodstrom had a real concern with permitting fees for home improvements. The City Manager advised that the City strictly follows the South Florida Building Code as promulgated by Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals. This code is more onerous than the Florida Building Code. Although the fee is within the City's jurisdiction, it is a cost recovery item. Everything required for a permit is governed by the Board of Rules and Appeals. Further explanation was provided with respect to surveys.

Vice Mayor Rodstrom referred to a news article on an incentive program in Sunrise aimed to lure investors by waiving a percentage of outstanding liens and reimbursement of a percentage of building permit fees for qualified commercial and multi-family properties. The City Manager explained under the cost recovery program, a City funding source would have to be identified for

the party. For example, the Community Redevelopment Agency could pay on behalf of the party. The City's program is to treat all parties equally.

Towing

Vice Mayor Rodstrom noted that Broward County is looking into allowing individuals whose vehicles are towed to pay for return of their vehicle by credit card instead of cash. She wanted to consider it. Mayor Seiler requested more information on this item.

Port Everglades Sand By-Pass Project

Commissioner Rogers raised the idea of sending a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Sun Sentinel Editor so that the citizens would have all of the facts. He pointed out that even if the bypass works, only 16 percent of the sand would be caught. There was no objection to Commissioner Rogers drafting a letter to be sent.

Fire Station South of New River

Commissioner Rogers commented on a recent fire in his neighborhood (Rio Vista). The response time was eight minutes instead of the goal of four minutes. He believed it was because the tunnel was closed. He wanted the City Manager to find a site for a fire station south of the New River. There are bond funds available for purchase of a site. He wanted a list of sites that staff has already explored.

Traffic Congestion, Las Olas Boulevard and Colee Hammock

Continued from page 10.

Commissioner Rogers raised additional issues on this matter and agreed that a meeting needs to be held. Commissioner Rodstrom was concerned that barricades were put in place and she was not kept informed. The City Manager explained it was done in connection with the air show. The barricades were to be removed on Monday but there were delays because of the weather. The request of the Colee Hammock neighborhood to barricade all of the streets was not accommodated. The measures were taken with respect to Las Olas. To some degree, staff needs latitude to make field calls. He took responsibility for not notifying her. With the stop sign installed and barricades put into place, Commissioner Rodstrom commented on the multiple neighborhoods that were confused.

Allocation of Flex Units by Broward County

Commissioner Rogers requested a report from the Sustainable Development Department provide a report on Broward County's examination of changing the way flex units are allocated, giving cities more control.

Florida Atlantic University

At the request of Commissioner Rogers, there was consensus for the City Manager to draft a letter for the Mayor's signature, expressing the City's opposition to Florida Atlantic University closing its downtown Fort Lauderdale campus.

Shady Banks, Flooding

Commissioner Rogers noted flooding in Shady Banks and asked the City Manager to do whatever is possible to alleviate these conditions.

Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant

Commissioner Rogers indicated that he is still getting complaints about chlorine used for cleaning seeping into nearby outdoor air conditioning units and corroding them. He referred the City Manager to Donna Mergenhagen who leases space nearby.

Bass Park Timeline

Commissioner DuBose was not pleased to hear from staff that because of staffing there is a problem with the timeline. He will await an update from the City Manager.

Human Trafficking

Commissioner DuBose wanted the City to have stronger involvement on this matter. He wanted the Commission to consider a resolution that he will present. He also suggested perhaps a presentation be made by Adriane Reese.

Housing Authority Projects, Oak Park Apartments, Sunnyland Homes, Sistrunk Gardens

Mayor Seiler explained that the Housing Authority has requested a letter of support from the City on these projects in order to qualify for tax credits. In that the Commission was not familiar with these projects, Mayor Seiler requested the City Manager followup with circulating information on the request so that the letters could be issued.

Events and Matters of Interest

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest .

There being no other matters to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 p.m. The Commission then convened as the Board of Directors of the Community Redevelopment Agency.