

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
Infrastructure Task Force Committee  
June 5, 2017 – 3:00 P.M.  
8th Floor City Commission Room – City Hall  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

1. **Call to Order:**
- **Roll Call**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Marilyn Mammano	P	3	0
Ed Kwoka	P	2	1
Ralph Zeltman	P	3	0
Keith Cobb	P	3	0
Leo Hansen	A	1	1
Roosevelt Walters	P	3	0
Fred Stresau	P	3	0
June Page	A	1	2
Norm Ostrau	P	1	0

**Staff Present**

Meredith Shuster, Administrative Assistant II to Public Works Director/Dept. Director  
 Alan Dodd, Deputy Director of Public Works  
 Chris Lagerbloom, Assistant City Manager  
 Lee Feldman, City Manager  
 John “Jack” Seiler, Mayor  
 Paul Berg, Public Works Director  
 Bruce Roberts, Commissioner

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
- **May 15, 2017**

On Page 1, Staff present: It was suggested that Laura Reece and Arika Johnson be listed as present.

Page 8, first bullet: operating costs should be \$316.5 million.

**Motion** by Mr. Stresau, seconded by Mr. Kwoka, to approve the May 15, 2017 amended minutes with corrections as noted. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mammano introduced three new members; Leo Hansen, Dave Orshefsky, and Norm Ostrau.

Leo Hansen indicated that he is a representative from the Planning and Zoning Board. He is an architect and has been in practice since 1982.

Norm Ostrau is a former State Representative, former Broward County Deputy Attorney, Chair of the Florida Ethics Commission, and member of the Elections Committee.

Dave Orshefsky has most recently been working on a volunteer basis with the MPO doing a transportation policy and mobility issues and has been living in Fort Lauderdale since 1982.

Ms. Mammano indicated that Dave Orshefsky will not be participating in any votes until officially appointed to the Committee.

Keith Landry, Assistant Public Works Director for Engineering, was introduced.

Mr. Kwoka proposed an amendment to the agenda for June 5, 2017 to review the dates for the regular meeting scheduled for September 4, 2017 with alternates for August 28, 2017 or September 5, 2017, seconded by Mr. Walters.

Ms. Mammano advised that the September meeting conflicts with Labor Day weekend. Alternate dates suggested were August 28, 2017, or September 5, 2017.

**Motion** made by Mr. Stresau, seconded by Mr. Kwoka, to move the September meeting to Monday, August 28, 2017 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Old Business

- Discussion of Observations from Previous Meeting

Ms. Mammano indicated that a tremendous amount of information was received at the last meeting and everyone wanted to digest it before having a discussion. Ms. Mammano wrote down her thoughts, shared them with the members, and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Mr. Zeltman advised that the Master Plans reviewed are outdated. He suggested a meeting with staff to be updated. Mr. Zeltman noted that wastewater should be on top of the list. The infiltration inflow system could be fixed by utilizing the I/I (Inflow and Infiltration) study, which is about three or four years old.

Ms. Mammano questioned if the Committee has that analysis.

Mr. Dodd stated that a \$15 million contract was awarded to five different companies in February to do pipelining. It will not solve the problem, but will tackle work to be done. Mr. Dodd added that a camera has to be put down each pipe to determine if the entire pipe needs to be lined or replaced. The project is estimated to be more than a \$100 million effort but until the cameras are run down each pipe the amount of work to be done is unknown. Certain basins have been targeted and that is part of the discussion

with Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to address those first.

Mr. Orshefsky does not believe the City has a handle on universal capital needs, although there is a Comprehensive Utility Strategic Master Plan, a facilities report that is a little aged dealing with the police headquarters and fire stations; and a parks report. It was suggested the Committee focus on water and sewer due to public safety. Staff needs to generate a long and short-term study. Mr. Orshefsky questioned whether the Committee wants to take more out of general revenue or recapture some of the Return on Investment (ROI) discussion. His focus would be to figure out what needs to get done and then have a separate meeting on funding sources.

Ms. Mammano did not think staff can do what is being suggested by the next meeting. Funding can be discussed generically at the next meeting and perhaps Mr. Herbst could talk about the various funding mechanisms. She recommended that item be put on the next agenda and will leave it up to Mr. Dodd to put together a team to make a presentation.

Mr. Ostrau mentioned that he would rather bifurcate and concentrate on one segment and then come back to the others. He would rather prioritize, bifurcate, and work on the financing for that segment.

Mr. Hansen commented that if a list of needs is developed, it could be seen all at once.

Mr. Orshefsky indicated that once a funding source is identified for a particular need or capital facility, some will become easy and some will not.

Mr. Kwoka expressed concern about how easy it is to get off on a tangent on any one of these items. The Mayor and Commission had given guidance as to what they want the Committee to cover and that the discussion should cover the process for the Committee to take.

Mr. Zeltman mentioned that the utilities sanitary, sewer, and storm drain should be done first before getting to the roads.

Mr. Cobb suggested developing bullet points under the Mayor's priority list to be better able to determine funding.

Ms. Mammano questioned whether staff could take each category and give a suggested breakdown of components at the next meeting.

Mr. Kwoka believes it is the Committee's task to come up with a foundation and use staff to fill in the details. He offered to take the first step of putting together the outline to be circulated by way of staff. The list can be broken down into master categories and once it is agreed it can be handed off to staff. He proposed members put together their version of this outline and see how the City fills in the gaps.

Mr. Walters was fine with Mr. Kwoka making the list and sending it out; however, he suggested the comments be brought to the meeting to avoid violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Stresau believes it is important that everyone see the list as well as Mr. Dodd.

Mr. Ostrau questioned what the figures are based on, in-house or external contracts and was advised by Mr. Dodd that there are a number of different master plans and documents. The \$1.4 billion number came from a series of charts contained in the Comprehensive Utilities Strategic Master Plan and the dollars were based on current cost estimates for those projects.

Mr. Dodd added that the city had a cost consultant help them to determine the cost of replacing sewer lines.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A. Discussion with Mayor Regarding Infrastructure Task Force Priorities**

Mayor Seiler addressed the Committee and reviewed five main issues the Commission believes the Committee should focus on:

1. Water, Sewer, and Wastewater
2. Stormwater
3. Roads, bridges, and sidewalks
4. Open space and parks
5. City facilities

Mayor Seiler stressed the difference between “needs” and “wants,” suggesting the Committee focus their efforts in terms of needs. He also discussed funding considerations and public/private partnerships.

Mayor Seiler requested ideas including whether some of the priorities should be bonded or not. He mentioned water and wastewater and noted that this is not just a Fort Lauderdale property tax issue. The City provides a lot of water and sewer to other communities. If the full burden is placed on Fort Lauderdale taxpayers on the property tax bill, these neighboring communities will be subsidized. It needs to be tied to usage.

Commissioner Roberts indicated that he has the same order of priorities as the Mayor. He also mentioned City facilities except the airport and the cemetery issues and stressed that a new police department is needed.

Mr. Walters commented that the Committee needs to be concerned with short-term and long-term when looking at the projects.

Mr. Stresau opined that he is not sure the water and sewer issue can wait three years for a recommendation.

Mayor Seiler responded that if there are health, safety, and welfare issues, then those items should be brought to the forefront.

Mr. Feldman advised they are working on plans with regards to water and wastewater. There are many funded projects in the works.

Ms. Mammano commented that one of their charges is to examine the current condition of infrastructure. In reading the Master Plans, she is not sure how much more the Committee can contribute to the analysis of condition. There is some expertise about the suggestions but they are related to information provided from staff.

Mayor Seiler also encouraged public input and hosting of Town Hall meetings.

Commissioner Roberts indicated once a product is developed members can go out for public input.

#### B. General Discussion on Information Sharing

Ms. Mammano advised these meetings are being audiotaped and videotaped. She requested the video presentation be put on the City's website.

#### C. Overview of Consent Order – Information Only

Ms. Mammano mentioned an article in the Sun Sentinel discussing a problem the State has identified and is urging the City to act on, which has to do with their storm sewer system.

Mr. Dodd commented there are a lot of different documents that tie funding decisions in the City to proposed structures. When it comes to infrastructure items, there are probably two dozen or more documents and a few are probably the Community Investment Plan and the Budgeting documents. Negotiations with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be influential. During a discussion with the DEP, it was said the City has had an increasing number of breaks; the DEP will want to work together to come up with a strategy to reduce the breaks.

Mr. Cobb questioned the jurisdiction and authority of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency and the penalties for non-compliance.

Mr. Dodd indicated that in this case the City is specifically charged under the enforcement of the Clean Water Act. When there is a sanitation pipe break, it gets into the waterways and is an unauthorized discharge. It was proposed that in lieu of penalties the City will put additional money into projects, specifically to provide environmental enhancement, environmental restoration, or a capital facility

improvement project above and beyond what is normally done. Mr. Dodd mentioned a mutual agreement has not yet been entered into. The DEP wants the City to look at the capacity of the system and specific components. An assessment is being done on all the force mains within the next six months to a year and new technology will help evaluate what is underground in order to prioritize repairs and replacements. Phase 2 is an assessment of all force mains. Work will be scheduled with a repair replacement project, which will probably take five to six years.

Mr. Cobb questioned whether they have the professional expertise to evaluate this effectively.

Mr. Dodd responded that the DEP is trying to work with the City using DEP standards. It is called a collaborative effort to help identify and put measures in place to reduce the risk associated, to either repair or replace, and over the long-term, to maintain better than it has been maintained over the last few years. There are 11 projects under discussion.

Mr. Hansen questioned when projects are prioritized if it is solely based upon the condition of the pipes or if there are risk factors or other conditions that factor into the prioritization.

Mr. Dodd referenced the Master Plan and noted that all force mains are being evaluated based on a series; age of the pipe, pipe material, the type of pressure, history of breaks or failures, and what they know the future growth and impact will be. The DEP helped identify the extremely high and high risk pipes.

Mr. Walters questioned the percentage of capacity the City is currently operating on.

Mr. Dodd did not have the specific numbers but stated there is a maximum capacity for the sewage treatment plant and the water plants. Overall, there is capacity within the system but there are pinpoint areas where capacity needs to be created. Currently, there are six lift station projects that are either under design or in construction.

Mr. Walters mentioned redesigning lift stations. Over the long-term, he believes it will be cheaper to plan for the future.

Mr. Dodd indicated it is difficult to rebuild infrastructure done wrong the first time, as it is not only an impact on costs, but an impact to neighbors while construction is ongoing.

Mr. Stresau commented that it sounds like the Consent Agreement requires more monitoring so the City will understand the problems and what needs to be repaired. Maintenance is the key issue. He questioned whether projects the City is funding are part of the Consent Agreement or whether they are ongoing projects that need to be constructed and partially funded before getting in the Consent Agreement.

Mr. Dodd advised there is an overlap between the two. Some of the projects identified are already in the plan, are fully funded, and on the path towards completion. The second set of projects not currently in the CIP are recognized as high risk; a physical condition analysis is being done. Based on that analysis, those projects will be put into the funding strategy for the next five years, will go into the Consent Agreement, and will be required to move forward. The State will hold the City accountable for completing those projects on a timeline.

Mr. Kwoka indicated the State is requiring the City to do short-term high priority fixes. He questioned if the Committee is better off looking at longer term replacement of a piece of the system.

Mr. Dodd indicated that staff will come up with a list of mutually agreed upon projects. Whatever the final agreement is, it will be a binding legal agreement with the State.

Mr. Kwoka questioned whether Mr. Dodd will be able to share what projects are being suggested that may be on the Consent Order prior to it being finished.

Mr. Dodd advised the dollar amount is about \$100 million worth of work. These projects were not in the CIP. The Utilities Master Plan, which lays out a road map for all high priority projects, was recently completed. These projects being discussed are part of the unfunded portion within the CIP. Once moved into the next budget cycle, a determination will be made as to how the projects will be re-prioritized to accomplish what needs to be done.

Mr. Orshefsky suggested recapturing the ROI; it is \$20 million per year.

Ms. Mammano commented that the concept of recapturing the ROI was the profit generated by the whole system. If that is done, the money used to fill gaps in the expense budget would have to be filled some other way. This also brings up the issue that people from outside the City are being subsidized.

Mr. Orshefsky stated the City charges within the City; however, service outside the City is charged 25% more.

Ms. Mammano questioned how much would be saved in interest and fees over a long period if existing money was used in the account as opposed to going out for bonding. The Committee needs to review the analysis because it may be better to pay now for five years than spread it out over 30 years.

Mr. Stresau advised there needs to be more conversation about the Consent Agreement.

Mr. Cobb questioned whether there has been discussion as to how the City is going to finance the unfunded portion.

Chris Lagerbloom stated they know what the debt service would be on \$100 million over a period through funding exercises.

Ms. Mammano advised that she would like to know the options.

Mr. Orshefsky mentioned most of the discussion is about water and sewer and he understands it is the Mayor's priority; however, there are four other priorities. He is concerned that other pieces are being missed.

Mr. Stresau commented that all the Commissioners did not agree on the list of priorities. As far as open space, he would put that high on the list, and sidewalks and seawalls would be lower priorities depending on the location. He believes the priorities should be discussed.

Mr. Zeltman advised that water and sewer are health and safety issues. Each category will be prioritized by importance.

Ms. Mammano agreed that health and safety is the highest priority, but that does not mean other items such as open space should be overlooked. She also felt the other items should not be neglected.

Mr. Kwoka stated that the items can be individually prioritized.

#### D. Board Member Comments

Ms. Mammano concurred with the Mayor and noted it has been her experience that people do not respond until something is in writing and suggested providing an interim report. At least one large public meeting should be hosted to listen to the public.

Mr. Stresau mentioned having a Committee website. If an outline were put together it could be attached to the next agenda.

Mr. Kwoka indicated that getting the message out to the public is at this Committee's discretion as long as it is within the boundaries of the Sunshine law. Perhaps the Sun Sentinel should be requested to publish the Committee's schedule as a follow up to an article that says community input is needed.

Mr. Orshefsky commented that this Committee is looking for meaningful public input. There needs to be a topic and then perhaps an interim workshop meeting held in the City Commission Chambers. As the Committee moves further along there will be draft recommendations and one or two additional workshops for the public to respond.

Ms. Mammano opened discussion to the public.



Paul Chettle found it interesting that the Mayor came in with a list of five things and noted that is not the consent the Commission gave. The Commission gave consent for three things; 1) water and sewer, 2) stormwater and seawalls, and 3) resiliency that was not defined. He mentioned the priority list. He is hopeful that more money will get sent to Public Works. He also mentioned the five-year CIP, the DEP consent order list of \$100 million, the crossover from the Payments in Lieu of taxes (PILOT) to the ROI 2011; the increase in water, sewer, and stormwater, and how much money is being invested in critical infrastructure.

Charlotte Rodstrom agreed with Mr. Chettle's comments regarding funding. She mentioned a 2011 bond and noted that as a large user group, the ad valorem tax would not work. As a citizen of Fort Lauderdale, taxes would be paid for other areas served.

Mr. Berg requested that Mr. Chettle and Ms. Rodstrom summarize their thoughts in an e-mail and forward it to Meredith Shuster to forward to the Committee.

**5. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting June 26, 2017**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.