

City of Fort Lauderdale  
 Infrastructure Task Force Committee  
 December 3, 2018  
 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
 8th Floor City Commission Room – City Hall  
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

**1. Call to Order at 2:02 P.M.:**

• **Roll Call**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Marilyn Mammano	P	19	1
Ed Kwoka	A	16	4
Ralph Zeltman	P	19	1
Keith Cobb	P	13	7
Roosevelt Walters	P	18	2
Fred Stresau	P	16	4
Norm Ostrau	P	17	1
David Orshefsky	P	17	0
Jacquelyn Scott	P	5	0

**Staff Present**

Dr. Nancy Gassman, Interim Deputy Public Works Director  
 Laura Reece, Budget Manager  
 Joe Kenney, Assistant Public Works Director  
 Meredith Shuster, Administrative Assistant  
 Raj Verma, Staff Liaison

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the December 3, 2018 Agenda made by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Orshefsky**

**Motion approved unanimously by voice vote**

**3. Approval of November 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

- A. **Motion to approve the minutes with or without corrections for the November 5, 2018 meeting by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Orshefsky**

**Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**4. General Discussion and Comments by Committee Members (5.10 minutes)**

It was requested that Ms. Shuster use neutral verbs to avoid a perception of conflict. The Chair directed that be done. In the case of the November 5<sup>th</sup> minutes, the use of the word “counter” was requested to be changed:

- Page 3, “Mr. Stresau reminded the Committee of the “~~counter argument~~” expressed reasoning that ...”
- Page 4, “Mr. Orshefsky ~~countered~~ responded...”

Chair Mammano alerted the Board that the Parks and Recreation bond amount went from \$150 Million to \$200 Million. The Parks bond and the Public Safety bond in the amount of \$100 Million will be

addressed at the December 4, 2018 City Commission Regular Meeting. The feedback she is receiving is questioning whether the bond money will be used for its stated purpose.

Mr. Roosevelt asked if the two issues were combined as one item or separate.

The Commission Agenda for December 4<sup>th</sup> lists the items as separate. Laura Reece read the description of the Public Safety and the resolution exhibit describing the uses for the money. She explained that bond descriptions tend to be generically worded to allow funds to have some flexibility.

There discussion ensued as to whether the \$100 Million would be used for a new police facility and/or what else it could be used for. The initial amount of \$80-84 Million for the police facility was for “hard costs” only and did not include furnishings, software or new real estate.

A question was raised if the Committee wanted to withdraw its recommendation to the Commission in support of the bond for the police station. The consensus was the recommendation stands.

Raj Verma explained the actual detailed costs some Committee members were seeking are not available until after the structure is designed. Planning costs are meant to be somewhat flexible to avoid being so restricted that one needs to take funds from another source in order to complete a project.

In response to the debt service for the two bond issues, Laura Reece confirmed that the amount added is in addition to the millage rate, not an increase of the millage rate. The amount will show separately on the tax statement and decreases as the property values increase over a thirty year period.

It is estimated the \$100 Million bond for public safety will cost each household \$54 per year or \$0.14 per day. Both bonds would cost about \$0.40 per day.

**5. Old Business (36 minutes)**

None

**6. New Business (37 minutes)**

- A. Goals and Agenda for Joint City Commission Workshop – January 22, 2019
  - i. Additional Funding for CIP Projects
  - ii. Completion of the ITF Responsibilities

*(6. A. i. and ii were discussed concurrently)*

In response to an inquiry regarding stormwater infrastructure after the seven most critical basins are addressed, Mr. Verma explained once the rate methodology is determined it would continue to fund needed stormwater infrastructure for the rest of the City. In response to the issue of sidewalks, roads, seawalls and bridges, he reminded the Committee about the recommendation made to the Commission in July, 2018 that the Commission has yet to act upon states:

Roads, Sidewalks, and Seawalls:

Member Ed Kwoka made the motion, seconded by member Roosevelt Walters recommending the City Commission; Establish minimum annual General Revenue funded capital contributions to the City’s CIP to support the City’s broader infrastructure needs, ranging in size from 7-10% of the General Fund operating expenses.

Mr. Stresau stated, it is from this CIP list that the emergency station, already funded for downtown, was cut due to the reduction in ROI. Mr. Orshefsky described the current City CIP process as malleable

making it less dependable for planning, designing and moving forward. \$10-\$12 Million is the general amount for unfunded CIP infrastructure (2%). Seven to ten percent is roughly \$20 Million per year. After discussion, it was decided to keep the percentage as recommended and let the Commission change the percentage to a lesser amount, if need be, in light of the ROI reduction. The idea is to have a minimum determined amount going into the budget that can be relied on for CIP unfunded projects, such as adding or connecting sidewalks.

Ms. Mammano reviewed the final three items for the ITF to consider as determined at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. With the exception of the roads and sidewalks, the consensus of the discussion by the members was the other objectives have been met.

- The Fiveash Water Treatment Plant will be acted upon once the analysis is completed as to whether it should be rebuilt or rehabilitated. It was discussed and determined that it was not the purview or expertise of this Committee to decide whether to rebuild or rehabilitate the plant. There are no new numbers anticipated beyond what is stated in the Reiss Report.
- The Commission has already determined that bonds for stormwater and water and sewer are the method of funding. The rate studies will support payment of those bonds. Consensus was there was no further value this Committee would add. It has made its recommendations and the Commission has acted upon them.

It was determined that the Committee would present two areas of discussion at the Workshop. First would be the issue of setting a minimum percentage for CIP unfunded projects. Second, would be to inquire in an open ended manner if the current Commission has further need of the Infrastructure Task Force.

Dr. Gassman mentioned that between the October Joint Workshop and the January Joint Workshop, things will have changed which may give the Committee additional context to have conversation with the Commission. In reference to Mr. Stresau's comment that the ITF is the "conscience of the Commission" she suggested it gives the Committee an opportunity to reiterate its priorities and recommendations as the Commission heads into the budget process. She suggested the open ended question as:

"Does the Commission have a need for the Infrastructure Task Force to continue to serve?"

Consensus approved of Dr. Gassman's verbiage.

Mr. Verma suggested that he and Mr. Kenney will put the two main thoughts into a format to be discussed at the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for final revisions. The opening item will be discussing a minimum percentage for CIP. The closing will be inquiring if the ITF's continuing services are required and if yes, in what manner.

## **7. Informational Items (1 hour 13 minutes)**

- A. Update on Joint Meeting with the Budget Advisory Board
  - i. The BAB did not make a determination to meet. It is currently in transition and also awaiting direction from the Commission.
- B. Ongoing Planning Efforts
  - i. To be determined after the Joint Workshop on January 22, 2019

C. Rules Governing Board and Committee Appointments

- i. In review of the Ordinance included in the backup, it was determined that the City Clerk's Office would not be invited to the next meeting to answer questions. The Ordinance is clearly stated with only Ms. Scott not subject to possible "sunset" by the current Commission.

**8. Ed Rebolz, Citizen of Fort Lauderdale (1 hour 29 minutes)**

- Long-time, active resident
- Experienced with large projects and costs
- Concerned with cost overruns and with having the long list of what the bond money can be spent on. He suggests that the list be reduced to only two or three projects so the Public knows what it is supposed to get for the money. He mentioned Broward County's \$800 Million School Board bond that has numerous cost overruns and incomplete projects, long overdue.
- When funding is approved, he suggests that the projects are ready to move and that there is adequate staff whether internal or external. Lack of City staff in the permitting department was mentioned when his company was trying to get construction permits. The City's permit department was so far behind that construction was delayed.
- He mentioned the tiered roadways and two-level traffic bridges in New York City. Like Manhattan, Fort Lauderdale needs to look "vertical" due to lack of land to help resolve traffic issues.

**9. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting January 7, 2019 (1 Hour 36 Minutes - 3:38 PM)**

- **Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Orshefsky approved by consensus.**

**Postscript:** Raj Verma, Staff Liaison stated he will be relinquishing his position after the January 22, 2019 Joint Meeting with the Commission.