

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
Infrastructure Task Force Committee  
August 5, 2019  
2:00pm to 5:00pm**

**Fort Lauderdale City Hall  
100 N. Andrews Avenue  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Marilyn Mammano	P	26	1
Ralph Zeltman	P	26	1
Peter Partington	P	6	1
Roosevelt Walters	A	24	3
Fred Stresau	P	22	5
Norm Ostrau	P	24	1
David Orshefsky	A	22	2
Jacquelyn Scott	A	10	2
Gerald Angeli	P	3	0

**Staff Present**

Joe Kenney, Assistant Public Works Director-Engineering  
Talal Abi-Karam, Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities  
Laura Reece, Director – Budget  
Meredith Shuster, Senior Administrative Assistant

Roll was called at 2:00 p.m. and a quorum was established.

**1. Call to Order:**

- Roll Call

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion to approve the August 5, 2019 Agenda made by Mr. Partington and seconded by Mr. Stresau.**

**Motion to approve the agenda approved unanimously by voice vote**

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve the June 3, 2019 Minutes with or without corrections made by Mr. Stresau and seconded by Mr. Angeli.**

Corrected by adding: The Committee proceeded to review the Parks and Recreation Element. A robust discussion and exchange of ideas ensued. (1:22:41 on video)

**Motion to approve the June 3, 2019 minutes with or without corrections approved unanimously by voice vote.**

**4. General Discussion and Comments by Committee Members**

Mr. Ostrau raised ancillary issues for consideration. He received complaints about the pipe break situation stemming from maintenance, training, redundancy and communication issues. He also inquired about a maintenance crew that checked valves. Per a newspaper article he referenced, the crew was disbanded eight years ago during the economic downturn and never reinstated.

Mr. Kenney stated the City Manager is investigating that now and the Committee will be informed once the findings are complete.

Mr. Abi-Karam informed the Committee there is currently a hydrant maintenance crew that also checks smaller valves than the 42" valve referenced in the same newspaper article. The valve involved with the 42" water main break is a very large valve that has been in the ground for 50-60 years. Large valves are not and should not be played with as routine maintenance. He informed the members when the 30" sewer line broke, a consultant was hired to help locate valves. Currently, Public Works is doing a more forensic review picking up where the consultant left off.

Mr. Abi-Karam agreed with Mr. Zeltman that having a record of the valves and details; such as, whether it is a right or left turn is the goal. The asset management software will be using GPS coordinates and tagging the valves with detailed information. In addition, Public Works is looking at an above ground marker system.

Joe Kenney informed the Committee that the asset management software has been purchased, the "data dump" has taken place, and training is being given to staff. The City Commission approved the funding and now the implementation of the plan is moving forward.

Ms. Mammano applauded the State (as part of the Consent Order) and City for its efforts. She pointed out that this information is not only needed in digital form to be aware of what exists but also as a tool for future planning. In addition to reporting on pipe repair, she suggested that planning efforts, funds allocated, and timeframes also be reported in "Go Big Go Fast."

There was discussion on the methods of communication used to inform residents of the pipe break. The opinions ranged from not enough to very good. The main determinant seemed to depend on whether the resident had access to the various methods of social media currently being used by the City.

Mr. Partington agreed with the ancillary issues raised. He mentioned the compounding of old infrastructure, contractors drilling holes into the City's infrastructure and the unavailability of redundancy. He suggested the Committee look into the permitting of excavation in the right of way and on private property. He pointed out that more work is being done by directional boring increasing the occurrence of running into city pipes.

Mr. Zeltman raised the issue that the utility company goes where and when it wants to restore its service. Its contractors create problems. He cited another incident where the utility's contractor hit a county water pipe leaving several thousand people without water. He suggested the Committee make a recommendation to enforce the City's ability to control its infrastructure and to consider the security factor in the recommendation as well.

Mr. Kenney explained that the City's permit process is under review for improvement. Many utilities have a State franchise making it difficult for a city to refuse a permit. If the digging is on city right-of-way or easement, there is a permit process. If the digging is on any non-city property where City infrastructure runs underneath, there is no city permit required.

Ms. Mammano raised the issue that operation and maintenance may not be in the scope of services of this Committee. In review of the scope written in the founding resolution, issues such as maintenance and operations might be addressed under the "repair and replacement" of infrastructure. She asked the Committee for a consensus whether it wanted to address infrastructure issues beyond the "physical sense" of replacing/repairing a pipe to communication, inspection, maintenance and operations. The consensus was not to address it.

Mr. Angeli agreed that keeping the infrastructure well maintained is important but the infrastructure keeps failing and the need should be to address *why* it keeps failing. He disagreed that redundancy, operation and maintenance were “ancillary” issues. His objection to the consensus was the inclusion of “communication.” He considered that a process and not something to be addressed by this Committee.

Ms. Mammano inquired about the relationship of what is being spent on new infrastructure and what is being budgeted for maintenance and operation as a topic for the Committee. Is there balance between what is being added to the infrastructure and the ability to maintain it.

Mr. Abi-Karam verified that there are two lines from the wellfield to the Fiveash plant. When asked why water was lost if there was redundancy, he explained that locating the valve for the transfer from the south pipe to the north pipe was what the newspaper reported on. When the valve was located and water rerouted the repair took place. Using the north pipe was part of the reason water was restored much sooner than initially predicted. To repair the damaged pipe, the water in the pipe had to be pumped out. Due to the size of the pipe and the amount of water, draining the pipe took a day. Once isolated and drained, the repairs could proceed.

Ms. Mammano then asked for consensus on the issues of operations, maintenance and inspections if “communications” was removed. The consensus was yes. With consensus, she stated the Committee can move forward in asking staff for information and recommendations to the Commission.

It was requested that the City provide a presentation to the Committee on its program/process to maintain, operate and inspect water and sewer mains at the next meeting or as soon as staff is able.

In answer to why there was a “boil water notice” for 10 days after the water line break affecting the Isles, Joe Kenney explained the break was on July 24<sup>th</sup> and the repair on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Before the pipe can be placed back in full service, mandatory testing of the water for certain bacteria levels is required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It is required that the tests must “pass” for two consecutive days. In the case of the Isles, there were alternate passing/failing of the tests until two consecutive days of passing were achieved. To clear any standing water in the Las Olas pipeline, intense flushing of the pipes on the side streets feeding into the Las Olas pipe had to take place. Las Olas Boulevard does not have any hydrants. It had to be done according to a detailed plan.

Mr. Zeltman asked for an update on the Fiveash project. Mr. Kenney stated this month staff is meeting on the pilot program and bench testing that is being completed this month. A report is expected in September. Once completed, it can be made available to the Committee.

It was asked for Fiveash update to be added to the September agenda.

In response to Mr. Zeltman, Mr. Abi-Karam explained the water is tested every month and must meet FDEP standards. Based on current analysis, there are no plans on the books to do a free chlorination burn. If needed, it can be added. Selected flushing in specific neighborhoods is done based on variables in the testing. All variables are looked at.

## **5. Old Business**

- A. Follow-up Discussion on the Recommendation to the City Commission requesting direction on the Infrastructure Task Force contribution towards the Comprehensive Plan.

In summary, it was expressed the Commission may not have understood the reason the Committee was asking for direction. Ms. Mammano subsequently emailed the Commissioners and Mayor giving a more full explanation. She stated the Mayor will be coming to the October meeting to speak with them. No formal agenda has been set. Requests for talking points have not been received by staff. Mr. Stresau

stated he made his suggestions regarding the Comprehensive Plan as an individual and several other Committee members stated they did likewise.

Ms. Mammano updated the members that the Planning and Zoning Board is holding several meetings on the Comprehensive Plan. The Counsel of Civic Associations is putting together a committee to work on some positions to send to the Commission.

Mr. Angeli stated he sits on the Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. It is meeting the next day. The Comprehensive Plan is on the agenda. He will report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Ms. Mammano stated there were no comment chains online for any of the elements of the Comprehensive Plan. She reminded the members they could go online and add their input in place of or in addition to sending an email to Lorraine Tappan.

## **6. New Business**

A. Zonar Technology – Gridics (View video of the presentation on the City website at 2:41 p.m. <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/city-manager-s-office/strategic-communications/fltv>)

Ms. Mammano expressed the 3D graphic depiction is the new technology being used to replace the colorful maps and PowerPoint presentations many are used to. She expressed how powerful but also complicated this technology can be. It has evolved beyond graphic depiction of development potential and has now moved into analysis of traffic and infrastructure capacity. This presentation is about development capacity analysis followed by a discussion of “next steps.”

Max Zabala represented Gridics, a Miami software company that produces services for the building environment. He presented an overview of Zonar Technology. This technology was used to produce a 3D map of Fort Lauderdale showing every parcel built out to its fullest capacity based on current zoning. Should zoning be changed, the capacity mapping will change accordingly.

In response to questions:

- The map represents what a full build out could look like, not what actually exists.
- The map needs to be updated to show the latest developments opened and under construction.
- It was verified the City’s contract allows for ongoing updating. Currently, its records are updated using County records. With access to the City records, the updating would be faster.
- Neighborhoods can be highlighted and there are several filters that can be applied. The City can provide what filters it requires. The current filter is for parcels. As an example, one can look for a parcel of a certain size with certain zoning allowances.
- By clicking on a parcel, information for zoning etc. can be seen.
- The impact on traffic can be determined from the data.
- The data could show what is under the parcel in question and a study could be done to determine what infrastructure would be needed to support the full capacity of the parcel. In a like manner, it could show what amount of development the current infrastructure could support.
- Currently capacity is being tracked using city models that show what the current infrastructure is and is expected for the next year.
- The question of building and/or funding the infrastructure for a possible future capacity or limiting development to the infrastructure in place is the question.

Ms. Mammano suggested the updating of City data be done more expeditiously. The Committee’s job is to make recommendations to the Commission based on the infrastructure today. The Commission needs to be

looking at “up to date” data for best decision making. This is new technology and Fort Lauderdale is the first city to implement it.

Mr. Kenney explained there are standards in place when laying infrastructure that exceed the current need. He stated the work being done on adding and upgrading pump stations coincide with those standards. There is long range thinking. There is also the cost to consider when putting in infrastructure in a degree greater than those standards.

When asked if the 30” forcemain that had previously broken was replaced with a larger capacity pipe, it was clarified that the same size pipe was used in the repair. It was explained that there are other factors such as the twists and turns and bodies of water the pipe transits to be considered as well as in this specific case, the urgency. Mr. Abi-Karam informed the Committee that certain planning for the future may not foresee the amount of development. He cited examples where whole areas of small business and single family residences gave way to multiple high-rises and multi-family complexes. Since Hurricane Irma almost all the pump stations have been upsized, new ones built and older stations upgraded to maintain capacity for new development.

With this new technology, instead of looking at individual projects and individual capacity, a more city-wide viewpoint can be had. It is more proactive than reactive.

It was clarified that impact fees are limited to the impact that one development has on the system and can’t be assessed impact fees to upgrade the system to accommodate future development. With good data, this system can give a better basis of decision making.

Mr. Kenney also added that in the downtown area there is a new pump station being built using impact fees for currently permitted projects at A1A and Broward Blvd.

Gridics is working with Ella Parker and Raymond Rammo on updating and using this technology. The Committee would welcome hearing from staff on this issue. It hopes to do so in the near future.

Mr. Kenney agreed with Mr. Stresau that doing a pilot program within a specific area of the City could prove useful. Currently, data is being compiled in several areas concurrently.

The initial idea of the software was to be used for development. Expanding the scope of this technology will offer added benefits from the data obtained.

## **7. Informational Items**

- A. Review of Water/Wastewater Rates and Charges and Criterion for Rebates of the Code of Ordinances Sec. 28-76.

Ms. Reece stated the annual 5% increase to the Water/Sewer Fund is approximately \$5 Million per year. The purpose of the 5% was to handle increase in costs of the operating and capital expenses and to cover the bonding costs. The percentage amount was calculated through 2028 based on the estimated increase costs of the current data. Mr. Kenney stated there will not be an increase in 2020 but the 5% will then continue until 2028. The increase in funds goes toward new projects and operating capital.

What is being *contemplated* in the new ordinance is to remove the rebate clause. With an estimated \$1.4 Billion needed in capital improvements, any excess in a fiscal year would be returned to the capital fund for “pay as you go” improvements or operations. It is anticipated that in 2021 there will be approximately \$20 Million in “pay as you go” funding.

The Committee is requesting a piece of paper or memorandum showing what the results of eliminating the ROI has contributed.

## **8. Public Comments**

Mr. Boyd Corbin read the Mayor's comments in the newspaper regarding the 42" pipe break and the dismissed maintenance crew from eight years ago. He stated he spoke with the assistant to the Mayor's assistant who confirmed that information. He suggested the Committee find out how much the crew was paid in order to tell the Commission an amount to add to the next budget in order to hire that crew again.

Mr. Corbin reiterated the three questions he asked at the May meeting. Mr. Kenney stated that the answers to the three questions were discussed at the June meeting. Mr. Corbin was not in attendance at that meeting. Mr. Kenney in answer to Mr. Corbin's questions explained the City is in compliance with all testing required and meets the standards of drinking water in accordance to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection standards. Mr. Corbin was provided with the handout given to the Committee at the June meeting.

## **9. Adjournment –Chair Ms. Mammano adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m. Next Regular Meeting September 5, 2019**