



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**DRAFT**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY HALL**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019 – 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

		<b>Attendance</b>	
Marilyn Mammano, Chair	P	29	1
Gerald Angeli	P	29	1
Norm Ostrau	P	9	1
Peter Partington	P	26	4
Jacquelyn Scott	P	25	5
Fred Stresau	P	27	1
Roosevelt Walters	P	12	3
Ralph Zeltman	P	6	0

As of this date, there are 8 appointed members to the Board, which means 5 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

- Talal Abi-Karam, Assistant Public Works Director – Utilities
- Omar Castellon, Chief Engineer
- Aneisha Daniel, Deputy Director of Public Works
- Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works – Sustainability
- Fred Harris, ~~Senior Technology Strategist~~ Cityworks Administrator
- Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Compliance Manager
- Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer
- Pauline Ricketts, Administrative Assistant
- Meredith Shuster, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Tatiana Guerrier, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communication to the City Commission**

The Committee is broadly in favor of considering a public-private partnership (P3), provided that the City does not give up control of the water supply, rate structure, or water quality. Should the City choose to enter into a P3, it should first engage a consultant to evaluate the different options and provide an opinion on the best possible P3 approach for the City’s specific circumstances. The Committee also agreed that it would be best for the City to begin preparations to seek an appropriate consultant to determine the best P3 option, should they decide to proceed with that process.

The Committee also wished to communicate to the City Commission that they have reviewed the proposal for the C-51 Reservoir allocation and are supportive of it.

## 1. Call to Order

- **Roll Call**

Chair Mammano called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Zeltman, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## 3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

### A. October 7, 2019

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Angeli, to approve.

Mr. Partington noted the following correction to p.5: “I/I” should be clarified as Inflow/Infiltration in its first use in the document.

Mr. Zeltman also noted a correction to p.6, paragraph 8: his question had been about exfiltration catch basin structures.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously [as amended].

## 4. General Discussion and Comments by Committee Members

Chair Mammano recalled that the Committee has been tasked with looking into the pros and cons of a Public-Private Partnership (P3) for the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant so they may advise the City Commission on this issue. Mr. Walters commented that if the Committee has not accomplished all its goals, time at future meetings should be set aside to complete this work.

Chair Mammano noted that the Committee has recommended to the City Commission that either the Infrastructure Task Force continue in the future or another advisory entity be asked to focus on the City’s infrastructure. At the most recent Commission meeting, there was consensus to wait until closer to March 2020 to revisit this issue.

The Committee members discussed this issue further, with Mr. Walters pointing out that some recommendations were not part of the Committee’s original task, and that the Committee should seek to close out the items it had been charged to address before either its sunset or its extension by the City Commission. He asserted that the Committee was close to having accomplished all the tasks with which it was charged under its original Ordinance.

Mr. Ostrau asked if the members felt the C-51 reservoir was within the Committee's purview. Mr. Stresau added that the Committee has not discussed bridges, roads, sidewalks, or parks, which were part of the Committee's original scope, as they had been directed not to address all of these items. Mr. Partington and Mr. Zeltman reviewed the Ordinance that had created the Committee, which refers to reviewing and identifying items in need of repair or replacement as well as identifying funding sources and/or financing alternatives for these improvements.

There was consensus that the original charge of the Committee was very broad, and included some items that have not been discussed, such as those cited by Mr. Stresau as well as the 40-year review of the City's facilities. Some of these items were replaced by more urgent issues as they arose.

Mr. Walters recommended dedicating each of the remaining four meetings to one specific issue so they can complete their charge. As the City's 40-year review has recently been completed, the members agreed that this would be discussed at the December 2019 meeting.

Mr. Stresau raised the issue of storm drainage, asking if the Committee should look further into this issue. Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works, advised that there are seven neighborhoods for which storm drainage improvements are intended over the next five years, depending upon funding. An Item on the City Commission Agenda for November 5, 2019 requests that the City move forward with the Stormwater Master Plan using a requested \$70 million line of credit. Dr. Gassman explained that the City wishes to take out a line of credit until they can complete the stormwater fee study, using money already in the Stormwater Fund. She felt this effort was influenced to a degree by the Committee's discussions. An Item approving the financing will come before the Commission in December 2019.

Chair Mammano requested that the Stormwater Master Plan be discussed on the Committee's December 2019 Agenda. This would provide an opportunity to communicate their support to the Commission. The Committee members further discussed other issues to be discussed in upcoming meetings, with Mr. Walters recommending that bridges and roadways be discussed no later than the January 2020 meeting.

Mr. Ostrau requested clarification of which bridges are the City's responsibility. Chief Engineer Jill Prizlee clarified that the City is responsible for 53 bridges. She added that she would bring back a list of the bridges that have been rated structurally deficient at a subsequent meeting. The two structures rated as most deficient will be addressed during the current fiscal year.

Mr. Zeltman commented that the effects of climate change, such as greater tidal intrusion, accelerate the deterioration of bridges. This has led to discussion of elevating bridges in other municipalities to increase clearance avoid contact with high tides. Ms. Prizlee

advised that this would be undertaken on a case-by-case basis: a certain amount of area is necessary to increase clearance without affecting adjacent property owners. It may not be possible to raise all bridges for this reason.

Chair Mammano suggested that seawalls also be discussed in December along with bridges. Dr. Gassman advised that the City has a Seawall Master Plan, although it does not include all City seawalls at this point. At present, seawalls are intended to protect the City's roadways, which means they would be funded through the General Fund rather than through an enterprise fund. Chair Mammano recommended that the Committee review the Seawall Master Plan and discuss whether or not its priorities are correct. Dr. Gassman recalled that at an earlier time, the Committee had discussed dedicating a set amount to go into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) each year to go toward the funding and maintenance of seawalls, roadways, and bridges.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Cityworks**

Aneisha Daniel, Deputy Director of Public Works, introduced Cityworks Administrator and Senior Technology Strategist Fred Harris. She explained that because the Committee reviews and evaluates CIP projects, it is important for them to have a clear understanding of Cityworks, as it will be fully integrated into the CIP process in the future. She provided the members with an executive summary from the Institute of Asset Management.

Mr. Harris advised that the City is in the very early stages of mapping asset information, which will be key to the successful implementation of the Cityworks asset management system. This information will be used for modeling and forecasting over the long term, including development of a predictor model that will examine how the addition or subtraction of funds can affect the City's infrastructure.

The primary focus of Cityworks is to ensure that the City gets the most out of its assets' life cycle. While not all assets have been consistently or properly maintained, the City hopes to be proactive rather than reactive in providing quality services to residents.

Ms. Daniel stated that Cityworks will allow Staff to make value-based decisions in the planning of CIP projects. If data is available on the life cycle of an asset, it allows for regular maintenance of that asset. Staff is currently performing condition assessments to gather information and add it to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data, which in turn is tied into the Cityworks program.

At present, Staff is undertaking asset inventory for sewer infrastructure. This will be followed by wastewater and stormwater. Dr. Gassman added that Cityworks will provide a framework through which information can be tracked. Specific pieces of information are required for every asset. It has not yet been determined whether seawalls will be considered stormwater or roadway assets.

The existing GIS system already includes a substantial inventory of assets about which some information is already documented. Over time, the City will continue to make investments to understand where its assets are located, as well as other criteria critical for asset management. She emphasized that this is a five- to ten-year project.

Mr. Harris stated that once all data has been compiled, Staff will be able to make decisions regarding how much money must be invested in the future. He estimated that within two to three years of gathering information, the City may develop accurate models. This will result in the development of a Strategic Asset Management Plan that will provide information on the deterioration of assets, as well as best practices.

Chair Mammano expressed concern that the City Commission will need to ensure both time and money are sufficient for the long-term commitment to Cityworks. Ms. Daniels replied that this is one reason assets are being researched in groups, beginning with the mapping and condition assessment of wastewater assets. It is not necessary to compile information on all types of assets before Staff may begin work on wastewater.

Mr. Ostrau requested that when information has been gathered on the probability and consequences of asset failure, he would like it to be presented to the Committee. Ms. Daniel replied that she would bring this information back to the Committee once all assets have been reviewed.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Public Private Partnership (P3)**

Chief Engineer Omar Castellon stated that he would prepare a presentation for the Committee and the City Commission in January 2020 to summarize the findings of the study by Carollo Engineers. This study is intended to help clarify multiple questions regarding the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant, including whether or not the Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) process would resolve the City's water issues, including water color. It was determined that GAC would not be a good option.

Another aspect of the study addressed the C-51 Reservoir to determine if it could be used and how this facility would affect the type of technology to be used. A deadline has been established by which the City must make a decision whether or not they wish to continue participating in an agreement to use this reservoir for water. Other sources of water explored by the study include the Biscayne Aquifer, the C-3 and C-5 wells, desalinization of ocean water, the Floridan Aquifer, and others.

Dr. Gassman explained that the C-51 Reservoir would deliver water into the City's canal system, which would augment the water penetrating the Biscayne Aquifer so water may be pulled from the Biscayne. The study will be used to determine which technology the City wishes to adopt. This technology will in turn help determine the company with which

the City enters into a P3: different companies will come forward and present the types of P3s for the City's consideration. Some companies may offer more than one type of technology.

The study will also address renovation versus replacement of the existing plant. Mr. Castellon clarified that the study's recommendation is for the construction of a new plant at a different location, which will use technology similar to what is already in use at Fiveash.

Mr. Zeltman expressed concern with the potential costs of replacing the Fiveash Plant with a new plant at a new location. Because there are existing water mains leading into and out of the Fiveash Plant, relocation would incur significant expense, including the cost of laying new pipe at a new location. In addition, regulatory agencies have very stringent requirements for new deep wells to ensure they would not contaminate the Biscayne Aquifer. He concluded that there should be a comprehensive analysis of the advantages and drawbacks of keeping the existing Fiveash Plant, as well as the advantages, drawbacks, and costs associated with constructing a new facility.

The members discussed different types of P3s, including use of an RFP from the City asking for proposals from private companies. Chair Mammano recalled that the Committee has previously seen a document listing different types of P3s that might be proposed. She asked why Staff felt a P3 might be the best way to proceed. Mr. Castellon replied that this is based on the City's priorities, including the expense of constructing a new plant.

Ms. Daniels emphasized that no decision has been made thus far regarding whether or not to enter into a P3. She noted that some of the potential advantages to a P3 may include an opportunity to restructure debt or to construct a new plant more quickly; however, no decision will be made until the Carollo study has been presented. She also pointed out that there are many different financing models available. Staff and the Committee members will need to educate themselves on the different models and options available to the City so they will be knowledgeable about these options when the report becomes available.

Mr. Partington commented that a P3 model that includes financing could result in the construction of a less expensive and more efficient facility, which would be reflected in the water rates. Mr. Walters noted, however, that if a private company controls everything in a P3 except the water, this places the City at risk. Mr. Castellon reiterated that in addition to looking at the possibility of building a new facility, the Carollo report will also consider retrofitting the existing plant.

Mr. Partington concluded that the Committee seemed to be broadly in favor of considering a P3, provided that the City does not give up control of the water supply, the rate structure, or the water quality. He added that should the City choose to enter into a P3, it should first engage a consultant to evaluate the different options and provide an opinion on the

best possible approach for the City's specific circumstances. The Committee agreed that it would be best for the City to prepare to seek an appropriate consultant to determine the best P3 option, should they decide to proceed with that process.

It was determined that the above would serve as a communication to the City Commission.

## **7. Informational Items**

### **A. C-51 Reservoir**

Ms. Daniels advised that an Item on the City Commission Conference Agenda for November 5, 2019 addresses the regional alternative water supply for the C-51 Reservoir. The City will enter into an agreement to receive six million gallons per day (MGD) of additional water supply, which would take Fort Lauderdale beyond the year 2046.

Todd Hiteshow, Environmental Compliance Manager, explained that the C-51 Canal discharges into the Lake Worth lagoon in Palm Beach County. The C-51 Reservoir provides an opportunity to reclaim some of the water lost to tides. It is next to the existing L-8 Reservoir, which is owned and operated by the South Florida Water Management District. Phase 1 of the C-51 Reservoir would allocate 35 MGD to the public water supply of South Florida.

The water would enter the system through the existing South Florida Water Management District canal structures and other conveyances, which would control and operate the Reservoir once it is constructed. Water from the C-51 Canal would be back-pumped into the Reservoir. The City's agreement would provide them with up to six MGD based on the operations and maintenance agreement with the District. This would offset the City's current allocation of water from the Biscayne Aquifer, which is 52.55 MGD. The City also receives 8.64 MGD from the Floridan Aquifer. These amounts are based upon 20-year permits.

One benefit of the C-51 Reservoir is that it offers the City a permit through 2065 for six MGD in addition to its existing permits for water from the Biscayne and Floridan Aquifers. Mr. Castellon added that benefits of the agreement would include use of a different technology as well as a plan for population growth. The cost associated with the agreement is \$27.6 million.

Ms. Daniel explained that this Item came before the Committee to ensure they are privy to the information that will be presented to the City Commission at the November 5 Conference Agenda meeting. The decision on whether or not to enter into the agreement will go before the City Commission at their December 19, 2019 meeting.

The Committee agreed by consensus to send a communication to the City Commission informing them that they have reviewed the C-51 Reservoir proposal and support it.

## **8. Public Comments**

Boyd Corbin, member of the public, requested clarification of the time frame for creation of the proposed water treatment plant. Mr. Castellon explained that this would depend upon multiple factors, including which entity would construct the facility. He estimated that the best-case scenario would be within a range of three to five years to build a new plant.

Mr. Corbin also addressed the C-51 Reservoir, asking if one of the options, which includes lime softening, also included GAC filtration. It was clarified that this filtration would not be included. Mr. Castellon advised that GAC would not improve the quality of water.

Mr. Corbin asked if a burn associated with use of ammonia has been completed. Assistant Public Works Director Talal Abi-Karam stated that this process is expected to be complete by November 16, 2019. Mr. Corbin continued that Fort Lauderdale's water significantly exceeded the total acidic limit for safe water regulations, as did safe methane limits. He noted that the organic content of water should be subject to better filtration to prevent further excess.

It was clarified that the City is not in violation of federal or state water standards, as they are following guidelines and meeting all requirements.

## **9. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting Monday, December 2, 2019**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]