



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE  
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

**1/2024 through 12/2024  
Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Frank Snedaker, Chair	P	3	0
David Cooper, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Mark Booth	A	1	2
Michelle Heiser	P	3	0
John Vratsinas	P	2	1

**Also Attending**

Raymond Nazaire, Senior Project Manager  
Danica Grujicic, Project Manager II  
Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer  
Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief  
Vickie Beauvais, Administrative Assistant  
Ingrid Kindbom, Program Manager I, Public Works  
Karen Cruitt, Prototype, Inc.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**• Roll Call**

Roll was called and quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**• February 22, 2024**

**Motion** was made by Mr. Vratsinas, and seconded by Ms. Heiser, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024 meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## **Staff Liaison Report**

Raymond Nazaire, Senior Project Manager, read the memorandum dated April 25, 2024. He noted the Expenditure Report was attached.

### **Fire Station #8:**

Mr. Nazaire read the staff memorandum for Fire Station No. 8, as follows:

Fire Rescue Station No. 8 is complete and operational. The warranty period for the building and the site expired January 2023. City Staff conducted the one-year warranty inspection, on February 3, 2022. The Contractor is currently working on addressing the unforeseen additional Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) work and deficient items (pipe insulation).

FEC signalization work is to synchronize the Fire Station signals with the adjacent railway crossing as a requirement by the Broward County Traffic Division. FEC and the Contractor, Burke Construction Group, Inc. completed the fiber wire connection to the main FEC panel on January 21, 2024. The Contractor completed work on the control cabinet at the intersection of Andrews Avenue and Southwest 17th Street and had fiber programming and restoration of the sidewalk at the control box location. The final connection signalization testing was completed April 4, 2024, and the system performed as per permitted plans and specifications.

On September 13, during a construction meeting with City staff, the Contractor proposed to install batt insulation (also known as blanket insulation) above the ceiling space over the bunk rooms area first, as Phase 1, then install the sound pipe wrapping as Phase 2, if required. The new proposal for Phase 2 will include existing pipe insulation and work on the existing fire sprinkler system, HVAC ducts and light fixtures. The contractor submitted a proposal for Phase 1, in the amount of \$2,960.00 The City is in the process of preparing the change order for Commission approval.

The tentative date for installing batt insulation is the end of May 2024.

Chair Snedaker asked if there was still an issue with noise. Chief Bacic advised that he would follow up and report at the next meeting. He noted there had not been recent complaints regarding the issue, and pointed out there had not been a lot of rain.

### **Fire Station #13**

Mr. Nazaire read the staff memorandum for Fire Station No. 13, as follows:

On March 28, 2024, ACAI Associates, Inc., City of Fort Lauderdale's architectural consultant, notified the City that it would permanently close operations on April 3, 2024. By this date, ACAI had submitted 60 percent of the construction documents for the Fire Station 13 and was scheduled to submit 90 percent of the construction documents. The

Public Works Department is working with the Procurement and Legal Departments to explore all options moving forward. All Departments are considering a decision to begin the process of developing a design/build procurement criterion to minimize delays.

On April 9, 2024, the Development Services Department (DRC) provided comments for the plat permit. The portion of the site that is being platted for a fire station is designated Parks Recreation and Open Space on the City's Future Land Use Map. The proposed use is not permitted in this designation and a Land Use Amendment would be needed before the platting process could be completed due to the scope of the project. The Land Use Amendment process is estimated to take 12 months to complete.

The application for the construction of the Fire Rescue Station submitted by the Grant Administrator for the Resilient Florida Infrastructure Implementation Grant on September 1, 2023, was not selected for funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 application cycle.

Mr. Vratsinas asked for clarification on whether it was the design architect or construction architect who had quit. Mr. Nazaire confirmed the consultant architect had been handling both design and construction documents, and they have since closed.

Mr. Vratsinas asked whether the drawings were at 60 percent as reported, or if a peer review would find they were at 50 percent. Mr. Nazaire noted most of the comments came in at 60 percent, but they are not quite 90 percent.

Mr. Vratsinas stated from a lay perspective, it appeared this issue would cause a delay. He stated he understood the Procurement and Legal Departments would be involved, and that there was no performance bond on the project. He asked what staff believed this delay would cost in time. Mr. Nazaire advised that staff would do all they could to keep on schedule. Discussion continued regarding the delays.

Chair Snedaker highlighted the Land Use Amendment requirement and expressed surprise this had not come up earlier in the process. He stated this was among the first things people look at, and one of the first things the DRC should have identified on their preliminary report, not on the third review.

Mr. Vratsinas asked for clarification on who was asking for this process and the reasons. Chair Snedaker stated whether it was a City project or not, it still needs to comply with the Land Use Code. He noted County and State requirements.

Mr. Cooper noted the current use is Parks and Recreation and Open Space, and there is a fire station on the site. Chair Snedaker clarified it was a nonconforming use.

Mr. Vratsinas stated they need to get the right people in one (1) room to talk about this. He suggested a Communication to the Commission. Discussion continued regarding the

review process, existing conditions on site, and the process for raising the flag to highlight the issue.

Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer, advised that the red flag had been raised internally. She noted both the architectural firm closing its doors and the feedback from the DRC were both a surprise to the team, so the issues had been brought to the Director and additional meetings had been held. She stated the City Manager would pull everyone together and take the lead in coordinating all department heads to satisfy the wishes of the Fire Rescue Department.

Mr. Cooper asked for clarification on whether the design-build would be from scratch or if a new consultant would be willing to take what has been completed and finish it. Ms. Prizlee advised they would be seeking a consultant to complete the project from this point. Discussion continued.

Mr. Cooper stated it was curious to him that the DRC has said the land is not designated for this use when it has been used for that purpose since the 1950s with the two (2) previous fire stations on the same land. Ms. Prizlee advised staff was sorry to share this news with the Board and highlighted the progress that had been made to keep the project moving forward prior to this point.

Mr. Nazaire outlined next steps briefly. The Board discussed design-build projects and setting performance expectations.

Chair Snedaker asked if the Board desired to send a Communication to the Commission. Mr. Vratsinas stated he believed staff was moving forward with the issue, and suggested a Communication be considered at the May meeting.

**Temporary Fire Station #13** (This project is funded through other sources and managed by TAM)

Mr. Nazaire read the staff memorandum for Temporary Fire Station No. 13, as follows:

TAM reported that the project is currently at 95 percent completion. The trailer purchase order is currently at 75 percent completion. The contractor is waiting on the electrical components to complete the utilities installation of the trailer. Staff are finalizing the project closeout with the Development Review Committee (DRC) and Building Department, Florida Department of Transportation, and Broward County.

The entire project should be completed by May 2024, once the new Temporary Fire Station #13 trailer is delivered and installed by another vendor, as reported by TAM.

Mr. Vratsinas stated it looks great, and to tell TAM they did a good job. Chief Bacic advised that Assistant Chief Gregory May had found the trailer, did the work with purchasing, and assisted with the coordination. He offered to send photos to the Board.

### **3. Discussion of Fire Stations**

Chair Snedaker inquired as to the status of the mold issue which had caused the firefighters to move out of Fire Station 47. Chief Bacic advised the mold was mitigated and the crews had moved back in. He stated the same work was done at Fire Station 16 and Fire Station 2. Discussion continued, and Chief Bacic provided a brief overview of the process for numbering fire stations.

Chief Bacic shared that May 18 was Annual Medals Day, where the Fire Department awards firefighters for acts of bravery and other great things that happened throughout the year. He noted that due to the flooding in 2023, this year's event would honor two (2) years of exceptional service.

### **4. Adjournment – Next regular meeting: Thursday, May 23, 2024**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by C. Parkinson, Prototype, Inc.]