



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWER 101 – SUITE 1100, 101 NE 3RD AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

January-December 2024

Attendance

Marilyn Mammano, Chair	P	10	0
Peter Partington, Vice Chair	A	6	4
Gerald Angeli (arr. 2:08)	P	10	0
Gregory Barnett	P	7	0
Shane Grabski (arr. 2:15)	P	8	2
James LaBrie	P	10	0
Michael Lambrechts	A	8	2
Marta Reczko	P	9	1
Roosevelt Walters	P	10	0
Ralph Zeltman	P	10	0

As of this date, there are 10 appointed members to the Committee, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

- Vickie Beauvais, Senior Administrative Assistant
- David Solomon, City Clerk
- Camille Minott, Assistant City Clerk III
- Omar Castellon, Assistant Public Works Director -- Engineering
- Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director – Sustainability
- Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer
- J. Oppерlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Chair Mammano, seconded by Mr. Walters, that the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee brings to your attention that the Committee is set to terminate on February 18, 2025. The Committee believes the Commission should consider extending the term of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee for the following reasons:

- The Committee reviews, monitors, and make[s] recommendations on such items as Fortify Fort Lauderdale, the asset management plan, the Consent Orders, the water treatment plant, replacing City Hall, and matters which are bound to come up in the future
- The purpose of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee as stated in Resolution 17-46 remains the same and these tasks are ongoing

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Call to Order

i. Roll Call

Chair Mammano called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

ii. Approval of Agenda

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

iii. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2024

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

2. New Business

i. Discussion of ITFAC Term Ending February 2025

Chair Mammano noted that the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) is scheduled to terminate on February 18, 2025. She requested a discussion of whether or not the Committee should request to continue its work, as well as of the members' own participation in the Committee, as some members may not be eligible for reappointment.

City Clerk David Solomon explained that with many City advisory boards and committees, members are appointed to one-year terms and may serve up to six consecutive terms through reappointment. Once that maximum has been reached, the member must be off the board or committee for two years.

Mr. Zeltman indicated that the name of the Committee was changed, which meant it was considered a new body when it was renamed the ITFAC. He asked if the six-year limit had reset after the most recent name change. Mr. Solomon advised that he would take down all the members' questions and respond to them, although he might not have all the answers at today's meeting.

Chair Mammano clarified that the Committee was last renamed in December 2021. She reviewed the Resolution which resulted in that name change, which stated the Committee's life would be extended through February 18, 2025.

Mr. Angeli arrived at 2:08 p.m.

Mr. Solomon stated that the longest-serving Committee members are now serving their third terms, which meant there was no official reset in 2021. He reiterated that he would follow up with the City Attorney's Office for clarification of when the members' third terms began.

Assistant City Clerk III Camille Minot added that some of the Committee members were reappointed; however, their reappointment terms were for one year only due to the Committee's pending termination date of February 2025. She identified these members as Chair Mammano, Vice Chair Partington, Mr. Angeli, Mr. Grabski, Mr. Walters, and Mr. Zeltman.

Chair Mammano asserted that when the Committee was given its new name in 2021, it was also given a lifetime until February 2025. She pointed out that most of the current members have served for four years, with some members having served since the inception of the Committee under its original name.

Ms. Minott noted that the original Task Force was created in 2017. Chair Mammano reiterated that the current Committee does not date back to 2017, as it was created in 2021. Ms. Minott explained that this was not consistent with her experience of City boards and committees, but the City Attorney's Office could be contacted to provide greater clarity.

Chair Mammano continued that if the City Commission does not take action to extend the life of the Committee, it will end in February 2025. She asked if, should the Commission decide to extend the Committee past that date, any of the current Committee members' terms have finished or if they have some time of service remaining. Mr. Solomon stated that this depends upon whether the Committee's start date is 2017 or 2021, and repeated that he would provide them with this information following outreach to the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Grabski arrived at 2:15 p.m.

Chair Mammano requested input from the Committee members regarding whether or not they wished to send a communication to the City Commission requesting further extension of the Committee's life.

Mr. Walters requested clarification of tasks yet to come which the Committee could be asked to review and discuss, as he felt this would determine whether or not extension was warranted. Assistant Director of Public Works (Engineering) Omar Castellon advised that there are several stormwater projects coming online through the Fortify Fort Lauderdale program, which will extend throughout the next five years. Most projects associated with the new water plant are currently underway.

Mr. Castellon continued that the City remains under a Consent Order for work related to inflow and infiltration (I&I), which he estimated would cost roughly another \$100 million

over the next five to seven years. A minor Consent Order related to potable water has already been completed. The current Consent Order related to water and sewer is set to end in 2026; however, there is the possibility that the new I&I program will go forward under another Consent Order, which may extend as long as another seven years.

Mr. Castellon continued that remaining water projects are included in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which is updated annually. There are no continuing consultant contracts to look into water services at this time, although the City's asset management program will review all water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure for inclusion in a database. Several consultants are involved in gathering data for the asset management program. The database is not expected to be complete for at least three years.

Mr. Castellon explained that the City allocates a certain amount of funding toward water projects each year. These projects are prioritized in the CIP according to the age and condition of the pipes. Both of the City's existing water treatment plants as well as the plant currently being designed are CIP projects.

Chair Mammano noted that the following issues could be addressed by the Committee if it is renewed:

- Fortify Fort Lauderdale
- The City's Consent Orders
- The asset management program
- Replacement of City Hall

Ms. Reczko added that there will be change orders for the new water treatment plant, and recalled that the Board has previously discussed issues related to PFAs. Chair Mammano asserted that part of the Committee's charge is to monitor the progress of items like these.

Mr. Barnett asked how much of the Committee's work is advisory in nature, pointing out that since his appointment, he has seen little advice with the exception of the new City Hall outreach project. Mr. Castellon recalled that the Committee put significant effort into advising the City Commission on the new water treatment plant and could periodically review the progress of that plant as well.

The Committee members discussed the content of a communication to the City Commission, including a list of potential topics the members felt they could review, monitor, and make recommendations upon.

Chair Mammano requested Mr. Solomon's input on either requesting an extension of the existing Committee's term or formulating a different advisory body to oversee the same tasks. Mr. Solomon reviewed the 2021 Resolution which had renamed the Committee, clarifying that it provided for an extension of the Committee's term if necessary.

Mr. Barnett asked if the extension of the Committee would be for a certain amount of time, pointing out that the infrastructure issues they hope to address are ongoing. Mr. LaBrie observed that there is value in a citizen-led advisory body consisting of a diverse group of individuals including residents, experts, and other representatives.

Mr. LaBrie observed that some City Commissioners may already feel there are too many advisory entities. He asked if there are reasons why the City may choose to allow the Committee to sunset. Chair Mammano noted that one reason could be that the City Commission may feel the Committee's mission is now complete. She also reviewed the 2021 Resolution, pointing out that its charge includes the examination and review of the City's infrastructure as well as encouraging community input. The members agreed by consensus that the need for the Committee is ongoing.

Motion made by Chair Mammano, seconded by Mr. Walters, that the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee brings to your attention that the Committee is set to terminate on February 18, 2025. The Committee believes the Commission should consider extending the term of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee for the following reasons:

- The Committee reviews, monitors, and make recommendations on such items as Fortify Fort Lauderdale, the asset management plan, the Consent Orders, the water treatment plant, replacing City Hall, and matters which are bound to come up in the future
- The purpose of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee as stated in Resolution 17-46 remains the same and these tasks are ongoing

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

The Committee determined by consensus that the **motion** would be sent as a communication to the City Commission. Mr. Solomon advised that the communication will be presented at the December 17, 2024 Commission meeting if it is received by the City Clerk's Office before that Commission Agenda is published. If it is not received by that time, it will be presented at the Commission's first January 2025 meeting. Chair Mammano encouraged the Committee members to attend the appropriate Commission meeting if possible.

3. Public Works Update

i. CIP Financial Report

ii. Water & Sewer Breaks Report w/Mapping

None.

4. General Discussion and Comments

i. Committee Members

Chair Mammano thanked Chief Engineer Jill Prizlee for regularly providing her with a list of the City sidewalks that are repaired each month.

Mr. LaBrie recalled that there had been extensive discussion of a broken sewer line and the resulting flooding at the October 2024 meeting. He requested an update on this issue. Mr. Castellon replied that the break was determined to be the fault of a contractor, who is aware that they are responsible for additional costs as well as any fines.

Chair Mammano recalled that a condominium in the area affected by the spill was advised by the City to sue the contractor responsible for the break, as that contractor and not the City is the responsible party. Mr. Castellon confirmed that this was standard practice, as the City was not at fault.

Mr. Barnett asked if recent king tides caused any unexpected intrusion of seawater into the City. Assistant Director of Public Works (Sustainability) Dr. Nancy Gassman replied that the 2024 king tides were some of the highest on record. Fort Lauderdale has recognized that changes in private properties can accelerate issues on public rights-of-way, citing two examples at which the demolition of houses resulted in an inadequate seawall. The property owners were cited for the intrusion of water into the rights-of-way.

Dr. Gassman continued that there is also discussion of seeking additional funding for work on City seawalls that were breached so those projects can be accelerated. The current funding level of the CIP only allows one to two City seawall projects per year, and the cost of the work greatly exceeds the funding that would be required to address four to five seawalls.

Mr. Walters advised that he had recently reported a water break on the City side of a median. The break was addressed within 30 minutes.

Chair Mammano added that City Staff made an excellent presentation on Fortify Fort Lauderdale at a recent Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations meeting.

Mr. Castellon stated that the City is in the process of changing its water meters to a digital format, beginning in a pilot area. The project will be ongoing for the next two years.

Mr. Grabski asked if there has been any discussion of undertaking sidewalk improvements as a capital expansion, which would allow developers to pay into a fund that would go toward sidewalk projects where they are needed rather than requiring developers to install sidewalks in places where there may be no need for one. Chief Engineer Jill Prizlee advised that the current part of the City's Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR), which is overseen by Building Services. She added, however, that she was open to the suggestion of a capital expansion fund.

It was further clarified that the Department of Transportation and Mobility addresses sidewalk network gaps, while Public Works oversees the assessment of existing sidewalks for repairs. Chair Mammano suggested that the Committee discuss this further if they continue after February 2025.

ii. Public Comments

None.

5. Adjournment – NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Monday, January 6, 2025

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 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.]