



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWER 101 – SUITE 1100, 101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301  
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

<u>January-December 2026</u>		<u>Attendance</u>	
Peter Partington, Chair	P	1	0
Marta Reczko, Vice Chair (arr. 2:08)	P	1	0
Gerald Angeli	P	1	0
Gregory Barnett	P	1	0
Shane Grabski (arr. 2:16)	P	1	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	1	0
Lindsey Way	P	1	0
Ralph Zeltman	P	1	0

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

**Staff**

- Pauline Ricketts, Administrative Supervisor
- Semele Williams, Senior Administrative Assistant
- Todd Hiteshow, Deputy Director, Public Works
- Troy Gies, Assistant Public Works Director, Operations
- Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Public Works Director, Engineering
- Brandy Leighton, P.E., Division Manager, Engineering
- Roberto Betancourt, P.E., Division Manager, Engineering
- Jason Walker, Distribution and Collection System Supervisor
- Jill Prizlee, P.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works
- Patricia Jolly, Program Manager II
- J. Opperlee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to the City Commission**

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Reczko, seconded by Mr. Walters, to authorize Chair Partington to write an email to the Commissioners and Mayor, reminding them of the upcoming deadline for the Infrastructure Task Force Committee, which is February 18, 2026. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**Motion** made by Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, to request the City Commissioners and the Mayor to approve a Resolution reauthorizing the Infrastructure Task Force until such time as the Ordinance establishing the Infrastructure Board has been approved by the City Commission. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**1. Call to Order**

**i. Roll Call**

Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

Public Works Deputy Director Todd Hiteshew introduced Assistant Public Works Director (Engineering) Otniel Rodriguez and Assistant Public Works Director (Operations) Troy Gies. He explained that Utilities services have recently been separated from Public Works and now constitute a new City Department. Public Works now includes solid waste, the City's fleet, and internal operations under the heading of Operations. Water and wastewater now fall under Utilities.

Vice Chair Reczko arrived at 2:08 p.m.

Distribution and Collection System Supervisor Jason Walker also introduced himself at this time.

**ii. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Angeli, to approve the Agenda for the purpose of discussion.

Mr. Walters noted that Item 2, Old Business, raises the issue of establishing an Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) Subcommittee, and pointed out that this was not an accurate characterization of the Committee's intent for its future. He recalled that there had been previous discussion of the possibility of the City Commission's changing the Committee to a Board.

Chair Partington recalled that the City Commission had agreed in principle with the Committee's suggestion that it be reestablished as a permanent Board rather than a temporary Committee. Following additional discussion, it was concluded that the title of Item 2.i would be amended to "Discussion of the Infrastructure Task Force Becoming an Infrastructure Board."

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

**iii. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2025**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Ms. Way, to approve with or without corrections. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**2. Old Business**

**i. Discussion of the Infrastructure Task Force Becoming an Infrastructure Board**

Chair Partington explained that he had requested this discussion be added to the Agenda. It was clarified that the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) is currently scheduled to sunset on February 18, 2026, which would allow time for a final Committee meeting in February, but no further meetings thereafter. He requested that Staff provide an update on this issue at the February 2, 2026 Committee meeting.

Chair Partington continued that an Ordinance is required to establish an Infrastructure Board, and all current Committee members would require reappointment to the new Board. Mr. Walters noted that this would also mean the members' terms would restart unless otherwise indicated by the expected Ordinance.

Vice Chair Reczko pointed out that City Ordinances are required to go through two readings by the City Commission before they can take effect, and suggested the Committee request that the City Attorney's Office prepare a Resolution continuing the Committee until the Ordinance is passed. This would provide temporary authorization for the Committee to continue.

Mr. Walters advised that an Ordinance changing the Committee to a Board is already being written, and shared the Vice Chair's concern that the Committee not be allowed to sunset before the Ordinance can be passed. Chair Partington proposed that the Committee members authorize him to write to the Mayor and City Commission on the Committee's behalf to remind them of the pending change. Vice Chair Reczko recommended that both her proposal of a Resolution and Chair Partington's suggestion of a letter to the Commission be carried out.

Following discussion and consideration of these alternatives, it was determined that the Committee would send the following two communications to the City Commission:

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Reczko, seconded by Mr. Walters, to authorize Chair Partington to write an email to the Commissioners and Mayor, reminding them of the upcoming deadline for the Infrastructure Task Force Committee, which is February 18, 2026. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**Motion** made by Chair Partington, seconded by Mr. Walters, to request the City Commissioners and the Mayor to approve a Resolution reauthorizing the Infrastructure Task Force until such time as the Ordinance establishing the Infrastructure Board has been approved by the City Commission. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**3. New Business**

**i. Tracking Major Projects**

Chair Partington recalled that Mr. Barnett had requested the addition of this Agenda Item. Mr. Barnett explained that his intent was to ensure the Committee is aware of the major milestones of the projects they have reviewed in order to determine whether or not those projects are making progress. He cited the Victoria Park stormwater project as one example, pointing out that it is scheduled to begin in January 2026. Engineering Division Manager Roberto Betancourt confirmed that this date is still accurate.

Mr. Barnett asked if additional milestones will be designated once the project begins. Mr. Betancourt replied that Staff does not typically consider projects in terms of milestones. He further clarified that the Victoria Park stormwater project encompasses two projects: one on the east side, which has its own drainage system and includes a pump station that will be repaired, and another on the west side, including an exfiltration trench. The west side project is expected to be completed more quickly than the east side.

Chair Partington suggested that the tracking of major projects be made into a continuing Agenda Item similar to the Sewer and Water Breaks Item. Mr. Barnett stated that he would like the Committee to create a list of projects on which they would receive reports showing whether or not those projects are on track or delayed. The Committee could briefly review these projects and suggest future Agenda items in the event that the projects are delayed or other issues occur.

Chair Partington proposed that the list of tracked projects include anticipated starting and completion dates, which would be revised if necessary. Mr. Barnett continued that his recommended list would include the following:

- Victoria Park stormwater project
- New Police Station occupancy
- Prospect Lake Water Treatment Plant coming online
- City Hall: completion of a comprehensive agreement with the design/build contractor
- Sidewalk connection project Master Plan re-prioritization
- Seawall program: City-owned seawalls raised to new required height
- CityWorks database inclusion of road/sidewalk projects
- Smart water meter deployment
- Consent Orders

It was noted that some projects may be tracked by quarterly rather than monthly updates.

Mr. Barnett requested clarification of objectives related to the City's sidewalk project. Ms. Ricketts noted that the public engagement portion of a Sidewalk Master Plan has been completed, and next steps include pre-prioritization of projects. She added that Staff keeps track of the progress of many projects that are presented to the Committee.

Mr. Betancourt advised that although the City's seawall project is constrained by funding, several new seawall projects have been added to the City's list of capital projects. All City-owned seawalls are prioritized within a Master Plan according to their structural integrity.

Mr. Barnett continued that while he had not identified specific milestones for the CityWorks database, these could include effective use of the database, such as integrating it into various projects. Mr. Betancourt explained that stormwater projects are currently the biggest user of the CityWorks database, followed by roads and sidewalk projects as they come online. Chair Partington suggested that the Committee see a presentation on the status of CityWorks at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Zeltman expressed concern with the City's progress on sanitary sewer repairs, including address of inflow and infiltration (I&I). Chair Partington pointed out that this is addressed under the City's Consent Order and the Committee sees regular presentations on this issue. It was noted that the Consent Orders in general could be added to the list of tracked projects.

Mr. Walters expressed concern with change orders, citing the example of a recent change order approved by the City Commission for the new Police Station. Chair Partington pointed out that change orders must be above a certain amount before City Commission approval is required, and the City Commission Agenda Items associated with these orders typically show where the funds for a change order will come from. Mr. Walters asserted that this is not always the case, reiterating his concern with the source of funding for change orders.

Mr. Hiteshew recommended against "getting into the weeds" with respect to the Police Station project, stating that the City is dealing with the project's issues in a legal and transparent manner, with presentations made at City Commission meetings. He concluded that these issues would fall outside the scope of Public Works.

Mr. Walters also addressed seawalls, asking if the City has developed any method for assistance to property owners to alleviate some of the costs of raising privately owned seawalls. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that all seawalls are raised, not only those owned by the City. Mr. Betancourt replied that there is no such program. Chair Partington confirmed that progress in raising City-owned seawalls would remain on the list of tracked projects.

Chair Partington concluded by requesting that Staff attach the list to each upcoming Agenda so it can be reviewed as needed at future Committee meetings.

#### **4. Public Works Update**

##### **i. CIP Financial Report**

Program Manager Patricia Jolly provided the Committee members with financial information on projects in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). She emphasized that some of these are partially funded projects that remain in progress, while other projects are 100% complete.

Vice Chair Reczko noted that the City has issued two bonds, one in 2017 and one in 2024, and requested clarification of the amount used to fund creation of a Water and Sewer Master Plan. Ms. Jolly advised that she could not speak to the specific projects funded by the bonds.

Chair Partington observed that the Reiss Report was completed in 2017 and has since morphed into a Water and Sewer Master Plan. He recalled that the Reiss Report indicated that the City would need to spend several billion dollars on water and sewer infrastructure over the next 30 years. Mr. Betancourt noted that this prediction included significant funding for surveying in order to map gaps in the system.

Vice Chair Reczko explained that her concern was with significant funding allocated to reports rather than using that funding on actual construction. Mr. Hiteshew stated that this funding allows for the creation of programs to address water and sewer infrastructure needs, including lining to combat I&I. The program includes CCTV monitoring and smoke testing; “sub-projects,” including I&I repairs, arise from the information provided by this monitoring and testing.

Chair Partington asked if the CIP financial report is provided to the Committee at each meeting. Ms. Williams clarified that it is provided on a quarterly basis. Engineering Division Manager Brandy Leighton reviewed how monies are allocated from different accounts to pay for projects, including I&I projects.

Chair Partington concluded by requesting that Staff keep the Committee apprised of the City’s progress on its Consent Orders.

## **5. Utility Services Update**

### **i. Water & Sewer Breaks Report w/Mapping**

The Committee members reviewed the report, which included a sewer break on Sunrise Boulevard and a force main break on Cordova Road.

Vice Chair Reczko requested information about the City’s enforcement of requirements regarding grease traps. It was clarified that the City inspects these facilities and provides both active and reactive education with regard to them. If corrective measures are required, the City will return to the location and ensure that needs have been addressed. Restaurant owners are required to provide grease trap manifests to City personnel upon request. The City is seeking to increase its level of service regarding the physical inspection of grease traps.

Chair Partington noted that there were nine breaks totaling 8,000 gallons in December 2025. The members reviewed and discussed these breaks with Staff, including “backcharging” contractors if they are responsible for specific breaks.

## **6. General Discussion and Comments**

### **i. Committee Members**

Chair Partington recalled that in the past, he had requested a presentation on the progress of the City Hall project, including the amount spent on this project thus far. He requested this presentation once more, emphasizing the importance of understanding this process.

Vice Chair Reczko stated that the Committee has not seen a full update on the Consent Order related to water breaks, as negotiations have been ongoing. She requested an update on any milestones that have been met for this project.

Mr. Barnett advised that he would like a formal presentation on the deployment of new smart water meters, including clarification of what this project is intended to accomplish as well as feedback on the program. He recalled that there had been some anticipation that the new meters could increase residents' water bills. It was also noted that the new meters will give more accurate readings than the former mechanical meters. Chair Partington also requested a presentation on this program at a future meeting.

### **ii. Public Comments**

None.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 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.]