**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA**
**COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES**
**Jarvis Hall**
**4505 Ocean Drive**
**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**
**5:00 PM**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Vincent called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Elliot Sokolow, Commissioner Edmund Malkoon, Commissioner Alfred "Buz" Oldaker, Commissioner Randy Strauss, Town Manager Bill Vance, Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Assistant to the Town Manager Neysa Herrera, Finance Director Lucila Lang, Municipal Services Director Ken Rubach, Special Projects Coordinator Debbie Hime, Public Information Officer Steve d'Oliveira, and Town Clerk Tedra Allen.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment.

Barbara Cole, resident, stated that the Commission should hold workshop or roundtable sessions with the public at least four times per year. She hoped to see a beach plan included in the Town's upcoming goals, as well as plans for El Mar Drive and a possible new and modernized Town Hall complex.

Charles Mangano, resident, asked if a new crosswalk will be constructed near Town Hall. He also requested that new traffic signage be posted on Bougainvillea Drive and Hibiscus Drive, and suggested that a speed hump be added on Hibiscus Drive as well.

With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

Municipal Services Director Ken Rubach addressed the concerns raised by Mr. Mangano, stating that he has spoken with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and is awaiting right-of-way documentation, including authorization to use the Town's right-of-way to implement a crosswalk. He was hopeful the crosswalk could be installed during the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Oldaker observed that a number of Town issues can be traced back to FDOT, and asked if there is a regular liaison who can assist with communications between these entities. Municipal Services Director Rubach advised that this depends upon the FDOT department: there is no single point person who can help ensure issues are addressed.

It was clarified that the proposed crosswalk would be constructed between A1A and Hibiscus Drive, south of the Chamber of Commerce.

## 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### a. Town Commission established Goals for the Town Manager for FY20

Mayor Vincent recalled that the Town adopted a vision and mission statement in 2013 which stated that by the year 2018, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea would have made the upgrades necessary to remain economically competitive and fiscally sound while retaining its small-town character. The Town's mission would be to deliver local government services efficiently, act as responsible stewards of the public's money, and enhance the Town's essential character, natural resources, and economic vitality while fostering positive public participation in government.

Vice Mayor Sokolow stated that the top priority for the current fiscal year (FY) should be the El Mar Drive project, which the Town is undertaking on its own rather than going through FDOT. Commissioner Strauss agreed, adding that improvements to sidewalks and drainage will need to be addressed as part of these plans. Commissioner Oldaker noted that lighting will be another important element of the El Mar Drive project.

Commissioner Malkoon commented that North Bay Village had received grant funds for the undergrounding of utilities, and suggested that this possibility be investigated for El Mar Drive. Mayor Vincent noted that the Palm Club sewer project will also be an important undertaking in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20. A third priority will be public safety, including reconstruction of the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) building.

Commissioner Malkoon proposed that some previous studies, such as the 2015 parking study, be undertaken again to reflect improvements made since the first study. He also recommended that a neighborhood lighting plan be considered. Vice Mayor Sokolow pointed out that it may not be possible to implement lighting on A1A, which is a state road. Municipal Services Director Rubach advised that the Town is responsible for the maintenance of some lighting on A1A/Commercial Boulevard, including damage to and/or replacement of fixtures. The Town must use approved fixtures that meet FDOT standards when installing lighting on this roadway.

Mayor Vincent emphasized the importance of the west side of Commercial Boulevard from the bridge to Bougainvillea Drive. This area has landscaping and lighting needs that should be prioritized, as it is an entrance into the Town. Town Manager Vance replied that he and Municipal Services Director Rubach recognize the need to increase the Town's investment into this area of Commercial Boulevard. There is some flexibility in the current budget through which additional services may be contracted to enhance landscaping and improve lighting. Commissioner Oldaker stated that similar attention should be paid to the entrance to the Town from the south end of A1A, including landscaping in the median.

Commissioner Malkoon requested that updates continue to be provided on Town goals at the second Commission meeting of each month. Commissioner Strauss advised that all attachments accompanying Agendas should be made available to the public. Commissioner Oldaker suggested that the list of goals also reflect the continued commitment of Town Staff to providing personal attention and excellent customer service to residents and businesses.

Mayor Vincent recalled that the Town recently engaged a consultant to undertake a Human Resources study, and requested an update on this process. Town Manager Vance replied that the study will begin in January and end in February 2020. It was also proposed that the consultant insert a standard dress code for Staff and all Departments for safety and insurance purposes.

**b. FY20 Action Plan**

The Commissioners reviewed the Town's goals, including cleanup and maintenance of the plazas when they are covered by sand. Municipal Services Director Rubach advised that Staff is looking into the possibility of windbreaks in the area.

Vice Mayor Sokolow recalled that during Public Comment, Ms. Cole had expressed concern with the planting of sea oats, which can obstruct the view of beaches due to their height. He felt the Town should consider finding an alternative to sea oats. Municipal Services Director Rubach explained that sea oats are helpful in retaining sand and are easy and inexpensive to plant in large quantities; however, the Youth Environmental Alliance has been incorporating other plants for communities who feel sea oats are too tall. He offered to reach out to this organization.

Commissioner Strauss addressed a project that would deploy nine acres of concrete reef modules north and south of the pier, which has been put on hold. The earliest deployment of this project may be summer 2020. He recommended that the Town coordinate efforts with the County to realize this project.

Vice Mayor Sokolow observed that Sections 1.1 and 1.2 require an update, as they include obsolete references to previous fiscal years.

The Commissioners also discussed sea level rise, with Mayor Vincent recalling that he had suggested Staff designate a resiliency officer to act as a county and state liaison for issues related to climate change. He emphasized this as an ongoing infrastructure issue as construction and other requirements change to improve resiliency.

Commissioner Oldaker noted that there have been multiple king tides during the current season, which has affected residents who live on the Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, a trend toward larger and faster boats on this waterway contributes to heavier wakes, which can overtop seawalls during high tides. He has reached out to elected officials at

the County level to determine if a group effort can be made to address wakes by notifying boaters or restricting speed during extreme conditions.

Mayor Vincent noted that he has reached out to Waste Pro, Inc. to ensure that trucks do not block designated pick-up and drop-off areas for transportation management companies such as Uber or Lyft. There is also discussion of posting signage and constructing shelters at these locations.

Vice Mayor Sokolow asked if Staff has taken any steps toward using technology to identify empty spaces in Town parking lots or has determined whether or not there is a need for a parking shuttle on weekends.

Municipal Services Director Rubach advised that Staff has looked at different systems that can be used in lots to determine open parking spaces and is seeking a cost-effective method. Staff has also met with providers of potential on-demand circuit services and discussions are ongoing. Microtransit services are being tested in other Broward communities; however, there are concerns regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as with vehicle size.

Mayor Vincent also addressed parking, noting that enforcement strategies and analysis of results were a goal for late 2018-early 2019. Captain Tom Palmer of the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) recalled that these results were presented to the Commission in June 2019, along with information on traffic crashes and citations. Both citations and crashes have increased slightly from the previous year, and enforcement efforts are enhanced in response.

Commissioner Oldaker asked if there has been consideration of moving a pay station in the A1A lot to the corner of Commercial Boulevard and A1A, which was discussed earlier in the year. This would move pedestrian traffic to a four-way stop location in an effort to address jaywalking. Captain Palmer recalled that signage directing individuals to the crosswalk was put into place.

With respect to Goal #3, which addresses preservation of the Town's way of life, the Commissioners discussed the creation of a walkability map and Bike Master Plan for major roadways Assistant to the Town Manager Neysa Herrera added that a response has been received from a bidder on the walkability map, and a proposal will be brought forward in the future for the Commission's consideration.

Goal #4, Infrastructure Improvements, has been discussed regarding lighting, including the conversion of some lights to LED design. Most complaints regarding brightness have been addressed using shields for these lights. The Municipal Services Director also plans to meet with Florida Power and Light (FPL) to coordinate plans for neighborhood and Commercial Boulevard/A1A lighting improvements.

Municipal Services Director Rubach advised that he and Development Services Director Linda Connors are looking at Town neighborhoods to determine plans for swale implementation and/or restoration in the future. Additional swale efforts will also be needed on East Terra Mar Drive.

Commissioner Oldaker observed that the city of Fort Lauderdale is considering major changes to its water service, which serves the south end of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. Municipal Services Director Rubach replied that Staff will reach out to Fort Lauderdale to determine whether their capital improvement plans for water mains will affect the Town.

Under Economic Development goals, it was noted that there had been discussions regarding the possibility of an FDOT study of accidents, as well as potential changes regarding left turns and U-turns. It was also clarified that discussions are underway with respect to the location of tents and signage on election nights.

Commissioner Malkoon noted that the current budget includes funds for repairs to the Town's portion of the seawall in the Bel Air neighborhood. He expressed concern with undertaking a partial repair with no requirement that the entities who co-own the seawall would need to make repairs as well. Town Manager Vance replied that a survey will be needed to verify the areas of the seawall for which the Town is responsible. Town Engineer Jay Flynn added that an informal survey has been done and official results are pending to identify what is in need of repair.

Town Manager Vance reviewed the goals for FY 2020, which include:

- Moving forward with the El Mar Drive and Palm Club projects
- Completing construction of stormwater improvements on Terra Mar
- Working on Staff development and customer service practices
- Emphasizing employee and public safety
- Maintaining a professional environment
- Keeping the Mayor and Commission updated on the progress of these and future goals

## 4. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Mayor Chris Vincent

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Town Commission Workshop
November 12, 2019

ATTEST:

Tedra Allen 12-10-19

Town Clerk Tedra Allen Date