



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners Committee of the Whole

Stephen P. Clark Government Center
Commission Chambers
111 N.W. First Street
Miami, Florida 33128

September 11, 2014
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Judy Marsh, Commission Reporter
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**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014**

The Board of County Commissioners convened as a Committee of the Whole in the County Commission Chambers on the Second Floor of the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW First Street, Miami, Florida, at 10:05 a.m., September 11, 2014, there being present upon roll call: Commissioners Esteban Bovo, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Audrey Edmonson, Sally Heyman, Barbara Jordan, Jean Monestime, Dennis Moss, Javier Souto, Juan Zapata, Lynda Bell and Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa; (Commissioners Bruno Barreiro and Xavier Suarez were absent). Mayor Carlos Gimenez and the following staff members were also present: County Attorney Robert Cuevas; Budget Director Jennifer Moon; and Deputy Clerks Christopher Agrippa and Judy Marsh.

Prior to today's (9/11) Committee of the Whole meeting, and Zoning meeting, a Remembrance Ceremony was held to commemorate the thirteenth anniversary of the tragic events which occurred on September 11, 2011. The Ceremony included the:

- ~ presentation of a Memorial Wreath by Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Hernandez;
- ~ a saxophone performance of America the Beautiful by Abdais Castellanos;
- ~ a cappella rendition of the National Anthem by Johnny Sanders;
- ~ a bagpipe performance of Amazing Grace by Nigel McDonald;
- ~ and a tribute video

The Invocation was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Roan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairwoman Sosa thanked Mr. Rene Diaz, Director of Community Advocacy and his staff; and Miami-Dade TV staff for collaborating on this tribute to the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

Following Chairwoman Sosa's announcement that the District Commissioner for today's zoning item was not yet present, Assistant County Attorney Craig Collier advised the Board could convene as the Committee of the Whole.

County Attorney Robert Cuevas advised today's Committee of the Whole meeting was required by the Board's procedures between the First and Second Budget Hearings.

Chairwoman Sosa said she was hopeful that the Board members who were not present for yesterday's (9/10) health insurance workshop would review the meeting and related documents. She asked whether any changes had occurred since the first public hearing.

Ms. Jennifer Moon, Budget Director, Office of Management and Budget, said that no new information was available since the first public hearing. She noted staff continued to address the concerns expressed by commissioners, and would provide information to the Board once it was available.

In response to Chairwoman Sosa's inquiry regarding funding for the nine enforcement-related positions in the Tax Collector's Office, Deputy Mayor Edward Marquez said Administration was looking at options and would provide a report to the Board at its next meeting.

Commissioner Heyman asked how non-union employees, including those within the Police Department, who were contributing five percent of their salaries to the County's healthcare cost could be accommodated when the County shifted to the new health insurance; and whether the five percent could be reinstated to these employees.

Ms. Moon said employees who were under the Mayor's purview and were not represented by a union would continue the five percent healthcare contribution. She noted she had recommended to some clerical staff within the Police Department to speak with Labor Relations concerning their assignments as non-bargaining employees, and whether they should be considered part of the appropriate bargaining unit. Ms. Moon pointed out the savings associated with the healthcare changes were allocated to the Police Department to buy back police officer positions. She indicated that staff would continue looking at other options; however, the budget was currently balanced with the assumption that those employees were part of the non-bargaining employees who were under the Mayor's purview, and their benefits would remain the same.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding the original allocation for the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Ms. Moon said the total \$4 million which was generated from the Convention Development Tax (CDT) was reduced by \$1.336 million. She noted the Administration's recommendation at the first Budget Hearing to utilize the \$1.336 million for CDT-eligible activities in the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department, which were funded by the General Fund in the proposed budget; rather than allocating it to the Perez Arts Museum. Ms. Moon pointed out if the \$1.336 million in CDT funds was used to pay for items in the Parks Department, the General Fund subsidy to the Parks Department could be reduced by that amount, which could then be redirected to the Police Department. Ms. Moon said no additional CDT funding was available.

Commissioner Jordan directed questions to Deputy Mayor Marquez regarding the nine positions in the Tax Collector's Office, and how \$1 million in savings was determined.

Deputy Mayor Marquez said there were 11 budgeted positions, nine of which were filled. He explained the tax collection process, and noted Administration was considering a Managed Competition process between the private sector and the County in which \$1 million in savings could be achieved over the course of one year from the General Fund.

Commissioner Jordan spoke in support of the Managed Competition process, and said she was hopeful that this would be a priority over outsourcing.

Mayor Gimenez apologized for his late arrival.

Commissioner Moss asked the Administration whether any discussion was held on including different pay categories into a straight salary unless they were merit-based.

Mayor Gimenez noted the base pay had been lowered by ten percent, as there would be no cost of living adjustment (COLA) for five years. He agreed it would be prudent to include the different pay categories into the base pay during the next contract period, noting these payments compounded and resulted in additional costs. Mayor Gimenez noted merit increases would also be addressed in the next contract period. He commented on the current agreements which allowed the County to save money on health insurance, and to create the mechanism to continue reviewing healthcare costs. Mayor Gimenez noted the proposed budget was protected in terms of the General Fund by eliminating any COLA in the third year of this budget and attached it to better than anticipated revenue in the property rolls.

Mayor Gimenez responded to Commissioner Moss' concerns regarding the reclassification of park employees; park maintenance; and maintenance cycles. He said if the contract that was agreed to by Local 199 was ratified and approved by the Board, 42 full-time park positions would be restored, and additional park maintenance would be provided. He noted some positions needed to be part-time to provide better service and to achieve efficiencies. Mayor Gimenez advised that park programs were not affected by the changes. He commented on the Administration's intent to enhance maintenance if additional revenue was achieved next year, and noted approximately 16 maintenance cycles were slated for next year.

Concerning public housing, Commissioner Moss said he wanted to ensure that resources were available to address problems experienced by public housing residents.

Mr. Michael Liu, Director, Public Housing and Community Development, noted he had spoken to residents in Commissioner Moss' district recently.

Responding to Commissioner Moss' request for additional police officers in District 9, Mayor Gimenez said meetings were being held with the Police Director regarding the redistribution of police personnel.

Commissioner Moss asked Mayor Gimenez to provide him with a report on the CDT's commitment at this time; the museum's budget commitments and how these commitments were being addressed.

Mayor Gimenez noted he would provide Commissioner Moss with a report outlining the future funding plan for the museums.

Commissioner Zapata expressed concern regarding the capital improvements done in the unincorporated area in District 11 with General Obligation Bond (GOB) money.

Commissioner Zapata directed questions to Mayor Gimenez relating to management rights issues in the labor agreements; merit pay increases and proposed fee increases.

Mayor Gimenez responded that management rights issues with the Fire Department was being addressed; management rights issues were pending with the Transit Department which were costly and could lead to inefficiencies; and minor management issues existed with the Water and Sewer Department which he believed could be resolved. He added that not many management issues existed with the Police Department.

Commissioner Zapata encouraged Mayor Gimenez to remain firm on these issues. He referred to incidents of Water and Sewer employees who were found sleeping on the job and noted these issues must be addressed.

Mayor Gimenez noted merit increases would be maintained in the new contracts and the average growth would be 2.5 percent annually.

Ms. Moon noted this year's budget added back all of the snap-backs and pay supplements, and a 2.5 percent increase was projected in FY 15/16.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Zapata, Mayor Gimenez and Ms. Moon regarding areas of revenue reduction; and the expectation for those revenue sources moving forward.

Ms. Moon said the major loss of revenue in the unincorporated area budget was payment on the Florida Power and Light (FPL) franchise fees. She noted this was a consequence of the value of the properties under FPL's jurisdiction, particularly in the unincorporated area, increasing substantially.

In response to Commissioner Zapata's inquiry regarding the fiscal impact of FPL's proposed treatment plants, Mayor Gimenez indicated that construction of FPL's

proposed two new plants would result in increased property taxes paid by FPL to the County.

Ms. Moon expounded further on the fiscal impact, and noted staff would be meeting with FPL and the Property Appraiser's Office to discuss the timeframe for receiving information. She also noted staff had been meeting with the municipalities that were under the County's Franchise Agreement .

Regarding the proposed fee increase in Miami-Dade Transit, Mayor Gimenez said Administration met yesterday (9/10) with the Executive Director and Chair of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) to discuss allowing the County to use some of the CITT's unbudgeted, additional revenues to forego the proposed increase transit fee. He noted the outcome would not be known until after the CITT's meeting on Wednesday.

Ms. Moon said she would provide Commissioner Zapata with a report delineating the proposed fee increases by departments.

Commissioner Zapata asked Ms. Moon to separate the Water and Sewer rate increase from the other fee increases.

Commissioner Zapata noted he did not object to a fair fee amount, but believed the County should explore an efficient process.

Commissioner Zapata commented on the Perez Art Museum, and noted he believed funding opportunities should be explored through the Community Redevelopment Agency and the City of Miami.

Commissioner Zapata noted his understanding that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Miami Beach would be ratified once the proposed budget was approved.

Mayor Gimenez responded that \$18 million was allocated in the proposed budget to save police positions; and was based on an agreement by the City and County Commissions on a mechanism for the County to participate in assisting the City to fund its Convention Center. Mayor Gimenez pointed out that an \$18 million hole would be created in the budget if the MOU was not ratified.

Commissioner Zapata said he was supportive of a Convention Center that the community could be proud of but believed it should be funded from CDT funds. He acknowledged the importance of public safety; however, noted he did not believe this was good budgetary principles and policies.

Mayor Gimenez noted he believed this was an equitable deal as the Convention Center was a regional asset, and he believed Miami-Dade County needed to participate in ensuring that a thriving, regional asset existed.

At this point in the proceedings, the Board recessed the Committee of the Whole and convened today's (9/11) Zoning meeting.

Upon conclusion of the Zoning meeting, the Board reconvened the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Commissioner Edmonson noted she would be supporting body cameras for the Miami-Dade Police Department.

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's inquiry regarding problems with the Miami-Dade Police Department's radio system, Mayor Gimenez responded that some problems existed with the new system.

Mr. Angel Petisco, Director, Information Technology Department, said that as of yesterday (9/10), all indications were that the new radio system was working properly; it was being monitored on a 24-hour basis; and a roll-out schedule was anticipated by the end of November. He advised that staff was working with the vendor to improve weak coverage areas in the south end of the County, and this was expected to be implemented by the end of January to early February 2015.

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's inquiry whether funding allocations had ceased to all chambers of commerce, Ms. Moon said the County now only paid for memberships in the chambers, and no funding was provided.

Commissioner Edmonson asked about the status of the Model City Library, and Ms. Gia Arbogast, Interim Director, Public Library System, advised that staff was trying to identify space in the Martin Luther King Center to relocate the existing facility at the Caleb Center. She noted the resources and staff would be moved to another leased facility. Ms. Arbogast said she would inform Commissioner Edmonson's office of the outcome.

Commissioner Bell commented on an individual whose property, along with other properties in the area, were undervalued. She asked whether an error in the property valuation from the prior year could be corrected, due to the three percent cap on the taxable value.

Mayor Gimenez said the Administration would look at the area Commissioner Bell referenced and report to the Property Appraiser if there was an error.

In response to Commissioner Bell's inquiry regarding full-time releases, Mayor Gimenez said these were negotiated releases that were included in individual contracts.

Commissioner Bell agreed with Commissioner Moss' request for Administration to look at base salaries.

Ms. Arlene Cuellar, Director, Human Resources Department, responded to Commissioner Bell's inquiry regarding step increases for rank and file police officers.

Commissioner Monestime commented on code compliance issues which needed to be addressed in District 2, including overgrown grass; and inquired about the maintenance cycle.

Mayor Gimenez suggested that Commissioner Monestime inform Administration of the particular areas that needed to be addressed.

Ms. Moon noted the maintenance cycle depended on the parks, but they were all being restored to the number of cycles in FY 12-13.

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, said the number of cycles in FY 12-13 consisted of 16 in community parks, 12 in neighborhood parks, 15 for roadways and medians, and nine for road shoulders.

Commissioner Monestime expressed appreciation to Mayor Gimenez for retaining all police officers.

Mayor Gimenez responded to Commissioner Monestime's questions regarding the restoration of Maintenance of Effort (MOE) from the General Fund for Miami-Dade Transit.

In response to Commissioner Monestime's inquiry regarding the restoration of the ten percent to Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Ms. Moon said the reduction was maintained at ten percent because funding to non-performing CBOs was recaptured. She noted there was no additional revenue to increase next year's allocation.

Commissioner Monestime expressed concern regarding parity for funding allocation across-the-board for small and large cultural organizations. He asked about the funding reduction for small CBOs.

In response to Commissioner Monestime's questions, Mr. Michael Spring, Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, said the reduction in cultural grants was ten percent of the General Fund dollars. He noted all of the smaller cultural organizations were being treated fairly and there was no favoritism based on the organization's size. Mr. Spring said staff was working to maintain the status quo support, especially for the small organizations.

Commissioner Monestime noted he wanted to ensure the message was conveyed that no cultural organizations would be left behind.

Commissioner Monestime concurred with Commissioner Zapata's concern regarding the UMSA millage being used to fund infrastructure, and noted he would like to discuss this issue with Commissioner Zapata in a Sunshine meeting.

Commissioner Monestime noted he would like to discuss, in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office, the possibility of seeking voter approval for funding of the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) projects. He noted funding generated from the half-penny was doing less than what it was able to accomplish 12 years ago.

Commissioner Diaz suggested that Mayor Gimenez discuss with the City of Miami Mayor, the possibility of using impact fees which were generated from construction of new buildings within the City to support the County's transportation issues.

In response to Commissioner Diaz' inquiry regarding funding for the proposed Hialeah Gardens Library, Mayor Gimenez noted capital funds were available; however, operational funds were not available. He noted the library would be built once operational funds were available.

Commissioner Diaz noted the Mayor of Doral had inquired whether the City could assume operation of the proposed library if capital funding was available.

Mayor Gimenez said he would be happy to discuss operation of the library with any interested party. He noted he contacted the City of Miami yesterday (9/10) regarding expanded services in some of their libraries.

Commissioner Diaz inquired about issues relating to the fire boat, and Mayor Gimenez responded that Fire Chief Downey would be discussing with his counterparts in the City of Miami Beach, the City of Miami, and the City of Coral Gables, a plan to disperse three fireboats geographically in the water.

Pursuant to Commissioner Diaz' request, Mayor Gimenez said he would ask Fire Chief Downey to include the Coast Guard in order to incorporate their capabilities into the County's resources.

Commissioner Diaz suggested working with the Beacon Council and the Chambers to form a partnership to attract businesses to Miami-Dade County which would result in job creation.

Commissioner Diaz spoke in support of strengthening the Military Affairs Board with the Mayor's assistance. He noted Miami-Dade County had become a big military

establishment and represented over \$300 million in economic growth for this community.

In response to Commissioner Bovo's inquiry regarding the union positions in which the employees performed union work, Mayor Gimenez said there was a reduction in full-time releases among the five unions the Administration had negotiated with; however, they were not altogether eliminated.

Commissioner Bovo asked whether a savings could be achieved within the union negotiations and the healthcare that could alleviate the proposed transit fee increase.

Mayor Gimenez advised that the Administration identified a solution for this year, and if negotiations were successful with the Transit workers, the proposed fee could probably be alleviated next year, and would not be necessary until FY 16/17.

Commissioner Bovo agreed with Commissioner Moss' comments regarding the salary structure. He expressed concern regarding the proposed increase in the fire fees, noting this could be a big deterrent in attracting businesses.

Commissioner Bovo questioned whether the Board would entertain discussion regarding an additional half penny to address unmet needs to make Metrorail functional. He recalled that promises were made regarding Metrorail, including linkage to Florida International University, and that had not occurred.

Mayor Gimenez said he would not be involved in anything that would overpromise and under deliver. He noted he was willing to have a realistic conversation with the Board regarding the amount of funds that could be generated with an additional half cent, and its use. Mayor Gimenez said the Administration was also considering public/private partnerships.

Commissioner Bovo noted he had been asked about the possibility of the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) investing in a rail system along its lines rather than expanding roads.

At this point in the proceedings, the Committee of the Whole was recessed and reconvened on September 16, 2014.

(Special Note: Please see minutes of September 16, 2014 for continuation of this meeting)



Board of County Commissioners
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
September 11, 2014

Prepared by: Judy Marsh

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	09/11/2014		Memorandum from Chairwoman Sosa re: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony
2	09/11/2014		Memorandum Re: Absence from Commissioner Suarez
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MEMORANDUM

Rebeca Sosa
Chairwoman

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To: Honorable Lynda Bell, Vice-Chair and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

Date: September 10, 2014

From: Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman

Re: 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony
During the September 11, 2014,
Second Budget Committee of the
Whole Meeting

Rebeca Sosa
Chairwoman

Kindly allow me to inform you that at the beginning of the September 11, 2014, Second Budget Committee of the Whole meeting, there will be a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate the thirteenth anniversary of the tragic events which occurred on that fateful day. To commemorate this solemn occasion, the following performances have been planned for 9:30 am in the Commission Chambers:

- a saxophone performance of *America the Beautiful* by Abdais Castellanos;
- an a cappella rendition of the *National Anthem* by Johnny Sanders;
- a bagpipe performance of *Amazing Grace* by Nigel McDonald;
- a tribute video; and
- the placement of a memorial wreath by the Sergeants At Arms.

cc: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor
R.A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Christopher Agrippa, Director, Clerk of the Board
Rene Diaz, Director, Office of Community Advocacy
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator

Eschubert



MEMORANDUM
COMMISSIONER XAVIER L. SUAREZ

111 NW First Street, Suite 220 Miami, Florida 33128 Tel. (305) 375-5680 Fax (305) 372-6103

TO: Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Members, BCC

DATE: September 10, 2014

FROM: Xavier L. Suarez
Commissioner, District 7

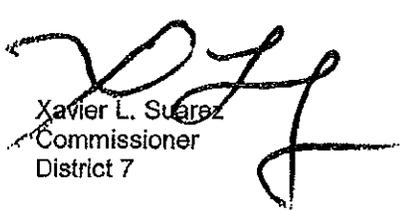
RE: Notice of Absence

Good morning,

I will not be attending today's Special Meeting of the BCC nor will I be able to attend Thursday's Zoning/MPO meetings.

I regret any inconvenience my absence may cause.

Sincerely,


Xavier L. Suarez
Commissioner
District 7

Cc: C. Agrippa

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