

City of Lauderhill

*City Hall
5581 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Lauderhill, FL, 33313
www.lauderhill-fl.gov*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, April 13, 2020

7:00 PM

Attend via phone: Dial 1-312-626-6799 & Meeting ID: 685 950 999

Attend via computer: <https://zoom.us/j/685950999>

City Commission Meeting

LAUDERHILL CITY COMMISSION

***Mayor Ken Thurston
Vice Mayor Howard Berger
Commissioner M. Margaret Bates
Commissioner Richard Campbell
Commissioner Denise D. Grant***

***Desorae Giles-Smith, Interim City Manager
Andrea M. Anderson, City Clerk
Earl Hall, City Attorney***

I CALL TO ORDER**II COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (AND RESPONSES TO THE PUBLIC, IF THE TIME PERMITS DURING THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION)****III ADJOURNMENT (NO LATER THAN 7:30 PM)****I CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Thurston called to order the Regular City Commission Meeting at 7:06 PM.

Mayor Thurston explained the present regular City Commission meeting was being conducted in a new and challenging era. The City of Lauderhill, Broward County, the State of Florida, the United States of America and the world were experiencing a new challenge due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. Due to those challenges, the City was required to hold virtual governmental meetings in accordance with COVID-19 Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and the State of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Executive Order #20-69, allowing virtual meetings for official government business, waiving the requirement for a physical quorum to be present. He highlighted the following:

- Mayor Thurston was present in City Hall
- Vice Mayor Berger, and Commissioners Bates, Campbell and Grant attended the meeting virtually or via conference call
- The City Clerk, City Attorney, City Manager, CRA Director, Deputy City Manager and other staff attended the meeting virtually, by conference call from areas of City Hall that were socially distant from each other, from other City locations, or their homes
- Due to the nature of the meeting and the constraints imposed by appearing virtually, for items pulled by Commissioners from the Agenda for discussion, Vice Mayor Berger would be asked to make the motion for approval, and if he declined, Mayor Thurston would go through the members of the Commission alphabetically to get the motion; once a motion was made, Mayor Thurston would ask each member of the Commission in alphabetical order if they wished to second the motion until the motion was seconded; after a second was obtained, the City Clerk would perform the roll call, and any member of the Commission wishing to speak before the vote should raise their hand if appearing virtually so he could acknowledge them prior to their speaking
- For persons not joining the meeting with a virtual presence, they should speak up or text IT Director Doug Downs their wish to speak telephonically,
- For members of the public watching or listening to the meeting, each item would be open to the public, as was usually done at Commission meetings; the City, in its notice for the subject meeting, advised persons wishing to speak on an agenda item to do so live during public comments or leave a comment on the City Clerk's voicemail at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, so it could be read at the meeting, leaving a name, number and address with the message; members of the public could complete the public meeting comment submission form online
- The City Commission and staff appreciated the public's patience and cooperation

during what was a difficult and ever changing time.

II ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner M. Margaret Bates, Vice Mayor Howard Berger, Commissioner Richard Campbell, Commissioner Denise D. Grant, and Mayor Ken Thurston

ALSO PRESENT:

Desorae Giles-Smith, Interim City Manager
Earl Hall, City Attorney
Constance Stanley, Police Chief
Andrea M. Anderson, City Clerk

III PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG FOLLOWED BY GOOD AND WELFARE

A. A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FORMER NORTH LAUDERDALE MAYOR JACK BRADY
(REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER M. MARGARET BATES).

B. A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE KRISTIN JACOBS (REQUESTED
BY MAYOR KEN THURSTON).

HOUSEKEEPING

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Berger, seconded by Commissioner Bates, to
ACCEPT the Revised Version of the City Commission Meeting Agenda for April 13,
2020. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Bates, Vice Mayor Berger, Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Grant, and Mayor Thurston

Abstain: 0

IV CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bates, seconded by Commissioner Grant,
that this Consent Agenda was approved. The motion carried by the following
vote:**

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Bates, Vice Mayor Berger, Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Grant, and Mayor Thurston

Abstain: 0

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the City Commission Retreat for January 30, 2020.

Attachments: [January 30, 2020 - City Commission Retreat Minutes](#)

**These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. (See Consideration of
Consent Agenda for vote tally.)**

B. Minutes of the City Commission for February 24, 2020.

Attachments: [February 24, 2020 - City Commission Meeting Minutes](#)

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. (See Consideration of Consent Agenda for vote tally.)

- C. Minutes of the City Commission for March 9, 2020.

Attachments: [March 9, 2020 - City Commission Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)

These Minutes were approved on the Consent Agenda. (See Consideration of Consent Agenda for vote tally.)

VI PROCLAMATIONS / COMMENDATIONS

VII SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

VIII GENERAL PRESENTATIONS (5 MINUTES MAXIMUM)

- A. A CENSUS 2020 PRESENTATION (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER M. MARGARET BATES).
- B. A PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (GFOA) EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD (REQUESTED BY INTERIM CITY MANAGER DESORAE GILES-SMITH).

IX ORDINANCES & PUBLIC HEARINGS - FIRST READING (NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA) (AS ADVERTISED IN THE SUN-SENTINEL)

XI RESOLUTIONS (IF NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA)

1. RESOLUTION NO. 20R-04-75: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL APPROVING THE MODIFICATIONS TO THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE ALREADY EXISTING POSITION OF CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN II; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY INTERIM CITY MANAGER, DESORAE GILES-SMITH).

Attachments: [RES-20R-04-75-JOB-modification-Crime Scene Tech II.pdf](#)
[AR 20R-04-75](#)
[Crime Scene Technician II 2020.pdf](#)

This Resolution was approved on the Consent Agenda. (See Consideration of Consent Agenda for vote tally.)

2. RESOLUTION 20R-04-76: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL APPROVING THE RANKING OF QUALIFIED FIRMS FOR RFP #2020-005 TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE LAUDERHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (LPAC) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE; PROVIDING

FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT FROM BUDGET CODE NUMBER 460-912-03150 (REQUESTED BY INTERIM CITY MANAGER, DESORAE GILES-SMITH) .

Attachments: [RES-20R-04-76-Ranking-LPAC Consultant.pdf](#)

[AR 20R-04-76](#)

[ORIGINAL FILE NOTIFICATION.\(002\).pdf](#)

[FINAL RANKING RFQ 2020-005 PERFORMING ARTS CONSULTANT.pdf](#)

Commissioner Grant sought clarification on when the City planned to roll out the subject service, asking if the City had a previous relationship with the number one ranked firm, as \$200,000.00 was a considerable sum, particularly in light of the subject economic times. She questioned if this was the right time for the City to embark upon such a contractual relationship.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith replied the number one ranked firm was one the City currently worked with to help with the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center's (LPAC) management; the service they provided included booking plays, artists, etc. Another important service they provided, that was the bulk of the proposed contract, was the provision of staffing for events as needed by the City at the LPAC; they were the firm the City used to prevent having to keep additional staff on the City's payroll. She noted staffing for events was generally paid for by producers of the event, so the direct payment for additional staffing did not involve City funds. Staff had to complete the contract negotiations, so she anticipated the contract would take effect in a month or two, noting the firm's services would be used as needed, so when there were no events at the LPAC, the City did not pay the firm anything. She indicated funds were sometimes paid in advance when future events were booked; for example, for a June event, City staff would begin booking the firm's services, but in the present situation with COVID-19, the City was holding off any such plans, but staff continued to look at future shows at the LPAC and the associated marketing and staffing for them. Staff hoped for the coming winter and 2021 shows the City would move forward with securing the firm's services to attract patrons to the LPAC and to enjoy the surrounding area's amenities.

Commissioner Campbell questioned if the LPAC was now able to generate sufficient funding to cover the cost of the proposed contract.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith responded a portion of the funds generated from events held at the LPAC was paid to the consultant to aid with booking and marketing the events, but a large portion of the funds were paid to the stage hands and other backstage persons hired for those shows, as the City did not hire such staff on a permanent basis. Rather, they were hired on a temporary basis through a firm that helped market the events as well.

Commissioner Campbell commented the operation of the LPAC appeared to be self-sustained, so the City did not have to take dollars from the City's budget to assist in any way in the overall operation of the LPAC.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith remarked this was a small part of what the City did, which was the booking and the marketing of the events, and making sure

shows were up and running. The City provided other services, such as rentals.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the City was making money from the events and activities held at the LPAC.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith affirmed the City did make money, though she did not think the revenue from the LPAC 100 percent covered the cost to run the facility; this was similar to most performing arts centers and other City facilities, such as parks. That is, they were provided to the community to improve quality of life, and the LPAC brought economic development in Lauderhill; it attracted over 50,000 visitors to the area. She indicated the LPAC was an enterprise fund, so the City worked to break even or make a profit as much as possible; though she could not say this was achieved every year.

Vice Mayor Berger wished to confirm an event at the LPAC was staffed by persons brought in by the consulting firm.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith replied when additional staffing other than those employed by the City was needed, the consulting firm brought in those temporary staff members. The LPAC had full-time staff outside the present or proposed contract.

Vice Mayor Berger inquired as to the City's regular staffing level for the LPAC.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith responded there were four full-time City staff members responsible for the operation of the LPAC. There were some part-timers, and for staff the City did not need on a consistent basis for the LPAC, the number one ranked firm was used to provide that staffing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bates, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Bates, Vice Mayor Berger, Commissioner Campbell, Commissioner Grant, and Mayor Thurston

Abstain: 0

- 3.** RESOLUTION NO. 20R-04-77: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING; APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) BRAUN SUPER CHIEF MEDIUM DUTY FIRE RESCUE AMBULANCES FROM TEN-8 FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC. IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,251,304.00 BASED UPON THE BIDS SOLICITED BY THE FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION CONTRACT (#FSA18-VEF13.0); PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT FROM BUDGET CODE NUMBER 190-351-06420; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY INTERIM CITY MANAGER, DESORAE GILES-SMITH).

Attachments: [RES-20R-04-77-PIGGY-4 Ambulances.pdf](#)
[AR 20R-04-77](#)
[Lauderhill Braun Rescue Packet 4-2-2020.pdf](#)
[Lauderhill FL - 4.1.20 Finance Proposal.pdf](#)

This Resolution was approved on the Consent Agenda. (See Consideration of Consent Agenda for vote tally.)

XII QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS (IF NOT ON CONSENT AGENDA)

XIII QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS, FIRST READING

XIV QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS, SECOND READING

XV UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XVI OLD BUSINESS

XVII NEW BUSINESS

XVIII COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS AT 9:00 PM, OR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, WHICHEVER SHALL FIRST OCCUR. IF AN ITEM OF LEGISLATION IS BEING DISCUSSED AT 9:00 PM, THE CHAIR MAY DELAY THESE COMMUNICATIONS UNTIL AFTER THE ITEM OF LEGISLATION HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

Vice Mayor Berger appreciated the manner in which City staff kept the Commission informed on what was taking place. He thought there was a community-wide order for everyone to wear masks when going out in public, asking if the City took steps to enforce that policy, such as among persons working in stores.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith affirmed there was an order from Broward County, Emergency Order #20-07, requiring everyone to wear masks and the proper disposal of used personal protection equipment (PPE). The order required persons to wear a mask when entering essential businesses, or whenever they were outside in public. City staff was working on sending notice out to each business, so they understood this was a requirement; staff received a complaint regarding a business on University Drive where it was observed neither the staff nor customers wore masks. She said the notice would also be posted on the City's website and distributed via email.

Commissioner Bates acknowledged and congratulated City staff on the good work they were doing during the COVID-19 pandemic that had affected everyone's lives, thanking them for the awesome job they were doing. She focused on the 2020 Census, as it would continue to affect the lives of all Lauderhill residents long after COVID-19 subsided. As of 4/13/2020, only 38.9 percent of residents who received their census invitation responded, and she was very disturbed that more residents

were not participating. She said it was a simple process that she did online in five to ten minutes, and the census questionnaire could also be completed on the phone or by mail. Commissioner Bates urged all residents to respond to the 2020 Census, as they were shaping the future for their family and themselves for the next ten years. The census affected the amount of federal dollars the City received for schools and their programs, such as the lunch program, healthcare, etc., programs that affected all Lauderhill residents, and another census would not take place until 2030. The invitation that came in the mail already had postage to mail it back, so there was no reason anyone should not respond to the Census, as the funds received helped the City better serve its residents. She said completing and submitting the census was something people could do while sheltering in place. She also noted having witnessed someone disposing of their mask and gloves in the parking lot as they were getting in the car, stating this practice only contributed to further spreading the virus, so people should properly dispose of them.

Commissioner Campbell wished to speak directly to the members of the public, noting the crisis the City was going through was twofold: one was the issue of health, and the other was the issue of economic impact. He was uncomfortable using “enforcement” as they way in which the City sought to comply with the guidelines issued, preferring to use the words “constant education” with regard to the public. Most people, he concluded, were somewhat confused about what was a new situation, and between social media, print media, etc., people were constantly being informed on what they should or should not do. He noted there was an assumption that persons on the street were not complying with protective guidelines, because they chose to ignore them, rather than considering that they might just be unaware of the guidelines. In many cases, persons were just uninformed, so when they were observed not adhering to the guidelines, the focus should be on educating them regarding what they should and should not be doing. Commissioner Campbell remarked, on the issue of the economic impact on the Lauderhill community, as many times when faced with a disaster, it was the general public who suffered the most. The funds made available to help those suffering from the varying effects of the COVID-19 pandemic did not always reach those in need. He encouraged persons in great need to position themselves to make sure they gained as much knowledge as possible on how to benefit from whatever funds were available. He was able to secure a three-month suspension of his mortgage via a simple phone application with Chase Bank, and these were services anyone could use, encouraging small businesses to avail themselves of such opportunities. They might not get millions of dollars, but a few thousand dollars here and there would certainly have a tremendous effect on ordinary folks in local communities, so they should visit their local banks to determine what help they could receive.

Commissioner Grant, again, thanked staff for doing an excellent job keeping the Commission apprised of what was going on at the city and county levels; the Commission was in constant communication with Ms. Giles-Smith and her staff. These were challenging times, and it was not always possible to interface, but it was very good to still get the information needed for Commissioners to keep Lauderhill’s constituents up to date. She encouraged residents to continue to wear their safe coverings, such as masks, knowing that it was challenging to find them in stores; companies were selling such supplies in bulk, making it more difficult for the average persons to acquire them. There were ways to make one’s own mask and

there were numerous tutorials available on YouTube, she saw on Mayor Thurston's Facebook pages some days prior the sharing of a link to demonstrate making a mask at home. She too would do the same, so people realized how simple it was to make their own mask. Commissioner Grant mentioned speaking with City staff as to the possibility of securing masks for distribution to the community, as she was getting a lot of community feedback on the frustration of finding masks. On the issue of food distribution, she heard a homeowner speak on that, and she was communicating with Ms. Giles-Smith on the issue of food distribution, as she thought it imperative. At this time, many people were struggling, and the City needed to extend a hand in the community, so staff and she were looking into the best ways to provide food. She said the drive thru option was probably the best, so staff and she were looking at how best to provide food to the community while minimizing exposure to staff and others, making sure to employ best practices. The community was encouraged to reflect upon taking better care of themselves, eating properly and getting sufficient rest, as the COVID-19 virus appeared to expose each person's frailties. She commented on the data that showed the virus adversely affected African-Americans disproportionately to others, so it was important to make sure everyone took the best possible care of themselves, adjusting their diet and taking steps to lessen stress. People in the community should keep abreast of the information being put out, as knowledge was important, but they should try not to become inundated with too much news. She suggested getting information in the morning, then continuing the day, and going to bed at night at a reasonable hour, as sitting and watching news channels all day could become extremely overwhelming. People were not banned from walking, so this was a very therapeutic way for families to do something outdoors together. She encouraged everyone to use the time to position themselves, so once the City reopened for business, they were going back with something very positive.

Interim City Manager Giles-Smith encouraged the community to remember the steps the City was taking was to ensure the Lauderhill community stayed safe. On a few nights, the police were out and, unfortunately, people held large gatherings of 30 to 50 people that led the police to direct everyone to leave; they were gathered in the road or hanging around someone's home. She said it was very important to limit group interactions to no more than ten people, not to clog up roads and highways, and for everyone to remain compliant with the directives from the police department. Residents should know the City and they would get through COVID-19 together, and City staff continued to work to ensure Lauderhill residents stayed safe. She invited everyone to join in at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays for a full COVID-19 update; the next was on April 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at which further information on the virus and the steps the City was taking would be provided.

Mayor Thurston thanked the City's first responders, who continued to do a fantastic job of keeping the Lauderhill community safe. He thanked the medical support staff who changed beds and mopped floors in medical facilities, as they were providing a very important service. He commended City staff for the great work they continued to do, as Lauderhill was doing well as a City; in his travels, he received loads of compliments about what the City Commission and staff were doing.

XIX ADJOURNMENT - 7:48 PM