



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

The City of Fort Lauderdale will be hosting virtual Commission Meetings using audio/video conferencing software until further notice. The public will be able to listen to and view the virtual meetings at www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv, as well as on Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

To sign up to speak on an agenda item at a future meeting, visit bit.ly/virtualccmeetings.

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the virtual Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at 6 p.m. The video and vote summary will be available this week at bit.ly/April7agenda.

City Commission Approves Grant Participation Agreement with Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale

The City Commission approved a \$64,706 non-profit grant participation agreement with Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale for the construction of a public memorial to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center. In addition to the memorial, the grant will also fund physical upgrades to the Riverwalk Linear Park, including the installation of landscape lighting that will result in improved safety and aesthetics. For more details, visit bit.ly/2y01rck.

City Commission Approves Amendment to Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant MOU

The City of Fort Lauderdale has been awarded a \$97,396 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Local Solicitation Program. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department intends to use the funds to purchase investigative equipment that will support the department's investigative and public safety capabilities. The City Commission approved the execution of an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Justice in order to process the grant. For more details, visit bit.ly/39QXoMM.

City Commission Allocates Funds for Mobile Application Service to Aid Crime Prevention

The City Commission approved an appropriation of \$30,000 from the State Confiscation Trust Fund to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department to continue the SaferWatch mobile application service that allows neighbors to report suspicious activity to law enforcement and aids citywide crime prevention efforts. Download the app today at getsafewatch.com. For more details, visit bit.ly/2UP551L.

Construction Agreement Approved for A1A/Bahia Mar Pedestrian Bridge

A construction agreement was approved with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the State Road A1A pedestrian bridge, located at 801 Seabreeze Boulevard. Demolition work on the pedestrian bridge, which is owned by the City and connects the Bahia Mar complex to Fort Lauderdale Beach Park, began in the summer of 2019. The Bahia Mar complex, operated by Tate Capital, has coordinated with the City to make various improvements to the pedestrian bridge's walkway surface, stairs, and fencing. For more details, visit bit.ly/2XpASYG.

Pump Station A-7 Upgrade Project Moves Forward

The City Commission approved a \$1.7 million contract with Hinterland Group, Inc. for upgrades to Pump Station A-7, which will significantly enhance the City's wastewater system. The existing pump station, located east of the Florida East Coast (FEC) railway on the south side of SW 2nd Street between SW 1st and 2nd Avenues, will be demolished and replaced. The new pump station will include improvements such as new pumps, new odor control features, lining of the existing influent 24-inch gravity main, and control panel and electrical system upgrades. For more details, visit bit.ly/3aRK6kF.

City Commission Advances Fire Station No. 13 Project

The City Commission approved a \$660,585 contract with ACAI Associates for architectural design and related services for Fire Station No. 13, which is located at 2871 East Sunrise Boulevard. The City evaluated several locations for the new Fire Station and Ocean Rescue facility before deciding to proceed with the project at the existing location. The scope of services includes, but is not limited to, design, permitting, bidding services, and post-design construction administration services. For more details, visit bit.ly/3aSv9u9.

City Commission Approves Contract for Force Main Upsizing Project

The City Commission approved a \$985,000 contract with R.P. Utility & Excavation Corporation for a project at Pump Stations D-35 and D-36. The infrastructure improvements include upsizing the existing 8-inch and 10-inch force mains to approximately 2,000 linear feet of new 14-inch force main along Harbour Inlet Drive from A1A to Barbara Drive and along Barbara Drive from Harbour Inlet Drive to the Stranahan River. This project is part of the Comprehensive Utility Strategic Master Plan and will help alleviate excessive velocities and pressures to conserve energy and reduce the risk of hydraulic surge in the force mains along with increasing the system capacity. For more details, visit bit.ly/2wnrM3P.

New City Park Coming to Galt Mile Area

The City Commission approved the \$1,090,000 purchase of a property located at 4201 North Ocean Boulevard as part of the parks bond land acquisition initiative. The property, situated in a prime location on Fort Lauderdale Beach, will bring much-needed green space to an area of the City in need of an additional park. For more details, visit bit.ly/39TxFU7.

Commission Passes Additional Homestead Tax Exemption for Low-Income Seniors

The City Commission unanimously approved an additional Homestead tax exemption equal to the assessed value of the property that would be available to qualified senior citizens. The long-term residency low-income senior exemption will apply to a person aged 65 or older that has resided at their property for at least 25 years and does not exceed specific income requirements. The exemption only applies if the just value of the property on record with the Property Appraiser's Office is less than \$250,000. For details, visit bit.ly/2xWFTxu.

Commission Defers Vote on Ordinance Expanding Boundaries for Unauthorized Camping

The City Commission deferred agenda item OSR-2 to the May 5, 2020 Commission Meeting in order to provide ample opportunity for public comment. The proposed item would expand the boundaries where unauthorized camping is prohibited. Under the amended ordinance, it would be unlawful for any person to engage in camping on public property at any time within one thousand (1,000) feet of a childcare facility or school located anywhere in the City. The amended ordinance is designed to enhance safety around schools and day care centers by deterring undesirable behaviors. For more details, visit bit.ly/2JKIWMS.

Commission Eliminates Restrictions on Homeowners Meetings at City Facilities

The City Commission unanimously approved eliminating rules restricting Homeowners Associations from utilizing city-owned parks and recreation facilities more than once a month for meetings and events, and eliminating the provision for additional costs. Removing the restrictions will provide greater flexibility and additional opportunities for Homeowners Associations to meet and work to enhance their neighborhoods and the City of Fort Lauderdale. For details, visit bit.ly/2XpmlV.

City Commission Designates Commissioner Steven Glassman as Vice Mayor

The City Commission unanimously selected Commissioner Steven Glassman as Vice Mayor. Commissioner Glassman will serve a one-year term as Vice Mayor beginning now and continuing until the first City Commission meeting in April 2021. In accordance with the City Charter, the Vice Mayor presides at any City Commission meeting from which the Mayor is absent. In addition, in the absence of the Mayor, the Vice Mayor also represents the City at various official functions, ceremonies, and events. If the Mayor should resign from office or be unable to continue to serve, the Vice Mayor would step in and serve as Mayor until the vacancy in the office is filled. For more details, visit bit.ly/39VAaVQ.

Next City Commission Meeting on April 21

The next meeting of the City Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 6 p.m. The meeting is expected to take place using audio/video conferencing software. For additional information about the meeting, including details about public participation, visit bit.ly/virtualccmeetings.