



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in-person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP WITH BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD

Commission Holds Preliminary Discussion of FY 2024 General Fund Budget

City staff and the Budget Advisory Board provided a high-level overview of the proposed preliminary budget for fiscal year 2024. The discussion focused on nine key aspects: property values – ad valorem revenue; the City's Fire Assessment Fee; key revenues and expenditure changes; inflation and market volatility; personnel service expenses – collective bargaining agreements; Commission priorities; public safety; infrastructure and Community Investment Plan; replacement plans; and American Rescue Plan Act funding. Property values and the associated taxes account for nearly half of ongoing General Fund revenues, and the Broward County Property Appraiser estimated an 11.7% – or \$5.7 billion – increase in taxable property value. Of this increase, \$1 billion is associated with new construction. Overall, the increased taxable value is expected to yield about \$20.9 million in additional revenue at the current millage rate that can be used to offset increasing expenses. Because of the large increase in taxable values, the City can maintain its current low millage rate of 4.1193 for the 17th consecutive year. The Commission also stressed the importance of public safety, and the proposed budget makes significant investments in that area to meet the growing demand for services, primarily due to population growth and increased tourism. The tentative millage rate and special assessment fees that will be included in the annual Truth Rate in Millage (TRIM) Notice will be set by the Commission on July 5, 2023. The adoption of the final rates and the budget will occur at public hearings scheduled for September 5 and September 13, 2023. For details, visit ftlcity.info/42UgiOm.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Hears Update about Melrose Manors Stormwater Project

The City Commission was provided with a presentation regarding the Melrose Manors Stormwater Project, which encompasses 660 acres within the Melrose Manors and Riverland Civic Association neighborhoods. Currently in the design stage, the project may implement a combination of a gravity drainage system and pump station to draw down water and transmit it

to a waterway. The preliminary design phase began in February 2023, with work including data and survey collection, environmental documentation, stormwater modeling, and conceptual design. A public outreach meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2023, with the final design and permitting expected to be completed in 2025 and construction likely beginning during the summer of 2026. The Commission expressed an urgency for this project and the desire to expedite the process as much as possible. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3CFJNZu.

Commission Looks at Water and Sewer Rate Structure Options

The City Commission was presented with four water and sewer rate structure scenarios that will support ongoing operations and the construction of the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center. All four options require an increase to combined monthly water and sewer bills, which are anticipated to double over ten years. City staff, the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee, and the Budget Advisory Board examined the scenarios and estimated that the average monthly charge for water would increase by approximately \$7 to \$8 per month each year over the next decade for the user of 5,000 gallons per month. Of the proposed scenarios, the Commission unanimously agreed on an option with higher initial rate increases during the first two years but save the City roughly \$100 million in interest fees over 30 years. With this option, a water and sewer bill of \$82.14 in 2023 would be \$165.66 in 2033. Public hearings are planned for September 2023; check the back of your water bill in July for the date(s) and location(s). For details, visit ftlcity.info/3NGmuFv.

Commission Given Update on Search for Temporary City Hall Location

With the current City Hall uninhabitable following the April 2023 flood event, the City Commission continued to explore options for a temporary City Hall location. The four options currently under consideration include two spaces at 1 East Broward Boulevard, another at 110 East Broward Boulevard, and one uptown option at Kaplan University. All would include space for City Hall Chambers. The Commission requested more details about potential overall costs to lease the space and to examine the most cost-effective options, possibly including remote or hybrid work. The temporary City Hall location is considered a short- to mid-term option, and the Commission will continue to discuss a long-term, permanent solution. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3qYhClV.

Commission and Miami Beckham United Work to Break Impasse Related to Lockhart Park Site

Representatives from Miami Beckham United, Inc. came before the City Commission for a public discussion related to the mediation impasse over the public-private partnership to construct a training facility, stadium, and community park site. To move forward with the design and construction of the project, the main issues to address include Miami Beckham United's request for reimbursement of the costs for the demolition of Lockhart Stadium and Fort Lauderdale Stadium, the payment of outstanding building permit fees, the parking license agreement, the community park design approval, and the portion of the park's construction cost to be paid by Miami Beckham. Miami Beckham United submitted \$1.4 million into escrow to pay the building permit fees should an agreement be negotiated and agreed to by both parties. If that happens, the City will agree to extend the parking license to the end of the current season. Mediation will resume between the City and Miami Beckham United.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Amendment to A1A Pedestrian Light Installation Plan

The City Commission approved a resolution accepting an amendment to the agreement to construct pedestrian lighting on the west side of A1A between the South Beach Parking Lot and Sunrise Boulevard. There are currently no pedestrian lights on this stretch of A1A, and the \$1.6 million project would feature a dual-lighting fixture that provides amber lighting during the sea turtle nesting season and white lighting outside of the season. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3CECe5m.

Commission Agrees to a Cost-Capacity Increase for Stormwater Master Plan Contract

The City Commission approved a cost-capacity increase to the Stormwater Master Plan Modeling and Design Implementation contract with Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. The \$9.6 million increase changes the total amount to \$32.8 million. The increase is needed to fund construction, engineering, and inspection services, environmental and cultural assessments, and for the Master Plan stormwater improvement projects in several neighborhoods – SE Isles, Victoria Park, Progresso, Durrs, and Dorsey-Riverbend. For details, visit ftlcity.info/44bGxRE.

Commission Adopts Resolution to Establish a Homeless Advisory Committee

The City Commission adopted a resolution to form a Homeless Advisory Committee, which is intended to provide recommendations to the Commission about perceived gaps and additional initiatives to help address homelessness in the City. The committee will comprise five Commission-appointed community members, one City business owner, and one subject-matter expert. The committee's objectives include reviewing best practices in addressing homelessness; providing feedback on the strategic plan to prevent, reduce, and address homelessness; assisting in identifying funding for homelessness initiatives, and helping raise awareness of City actions. For details, visit ftlcity.info/43QkLmr.

Commission Approves Land Rezoning and Resolution for Development of Bahia Mar Project

The City Commission approved rezoning 38.65 square acres of land, located at 801 Seabreeze Boulevard, from South Beach Marina and Hotel Area District (SBMHA) to Planned Development District (PDD). The Commission then approved a resolution to enter into a development agreement with Rahn Bahia Mar, LLC. The company proposes a new 256-room hotel with 88,000 square feet of commercial and office space and a restaurant. The project would replace the existing Bahia Mar Hotel and contain four residential buildings with 410 units surrounded by a waterfront promenade, plaza space, and a centralized park facing the Intracoastal waterway. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3qP9q7z and ftlcity.info/46dLxqw.

Commission Advances Ordinance to Allow for Thematic Historic Districts

The City Commission approved the first reading of an ordinance to amend the City's Unified Land Development Regulations to include an option to designate thematic historic districts. A thematic historic district recognizes a group of properties with a common theme not located within a contiguous area, which means the structures may be scattered throughout a

neighborhood, several blocks, or even citywide. The ordinance also allows for changes to existing historic preservation criteria and procedures. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3NiLDVI.

Information

For more information on the June 20, 2023, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.