



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, December 19, 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 CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Given Options to Update Code of Ordinances to Address Noise Violations

The City Commission was provided additional information and potential action items following a presentation that was conducted to analyze noise, ambient sounds, and amplified music in residential and commercial settings throughout Fort Lauderdale. The October presentation included proposed strategies to adopt standards for measuring sound and strategies for detecting and enforcing violations. The City's Noise Control Advisory Committee offered several recommendations, including how and where to measure for noise violations, requiring new venues to provide a noise mitigation plan and institute an annual permit for entertainment venues that would include penalties for violations of the noise ordinance. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3NClq4V.

Commission Discusses Community Centers for Carter Park Riverland Woods Park

The City Commission discussed the reallocation of portions of district-specific funds originally earmarked for land acquisition to be redirected toward two new community centers, one at Carter Park and the other at Riverland Woods Park. The Parks Bond previously identified \$30 million for land acquisition for future parks with each District Commissioner being allotted \$7.5M to utilize towards the acquisition of land. However, high property values have made finding large parcels of viable park land difficult, and increased construction costs have made accomplishing the vision of the Parks Bond more challenging. The Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Board will review this recommendation before a Public Hearing at a future City Commission meeting. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4awxOgP.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Three-Year Agreement for School Resource Officer Program

The City Commission approved the authorization of a three-year agreement with the School Board of Broward County, Florida, for a School Resource Officer Program by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The City assigns 10 law enforcement officers to serve as school resource officers at nine schools. The School Board of Broward County, Florida, contributes \$10,300 per officer each month for a total of approximately \$3.1 million over the three years of the agreement. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3RLH4pP.

Commission Approves Additional Funds and a 90-Day Extension for Las Olas Undergrounding

The City Commission approved a change order for approximately \$590,000 and an additional 90 calendar days for the Las Olas Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities project. The project involves converting existing overhead electrical and communication utilities to underground in Las Olas Isles. The change order addresses overruns and reductions caused by multiple transformer relocations based on residents' needs, differences between estimated and actual conduit/wire footages needed, number of vault/hand hole installations, and additional work necessary because of plan revisions and field conditions. As of December 7, 60 of 322 homes have been connected via the underground system. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3GO198T.

Commission Approves the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan

The City Commission adopted a resolution approving the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan, which includes a set list of goals, objectives, and action items. The plan will be used over the next five to 10 years to guide the City's Historic Preservation Program. Staff will now proceed with executing items outlined in the plan and are in the process of creating a method to track progress on all action items. The plan will be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3v8pd3L.

Commission Accepts \$200,000 Grant to Assist with Bass Park Renovation

The City Commission adopted a resolution to accept a grant of \$200,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program. The funds will be used to assist with the renovation of Bass Park, including the renovation of the park's pool and the construction of a playground splash pad and fitness station. The City will match the grant with an additional \$200,000. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3TA0e3g.

Commission Approves 61-Month Lease for Fire Logistics and Fire Vehicle Storage

The City Commission approved a lease agreement with Oakland Park Bays, LLC for \$1.8 million over 61 months. The lease agreement for 15,772 square feet of warehouse space at 4120 NW 10th Avenue will be used for fire logistics and fire vehicle storage. The fire logistics team ensures that Fire Rescue units are adequately equipped with the necessary vehicles and equipment to effectively serve the community. Fire logistics and fleet services currently operate in a facility that lacks indoor storage space. For details, visit ftlcity.info/41vaZFY.

Commission Provides Notice to Proceed with a Water Taxi Terminal at 1001 Seabreeze Blvd.

The City Commission approved a resolution to provide notice of its decision to accept an unsolicited proposal from Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale, LLC to construct, operate, and maintain a water taxi terminal on city-owned property at 1001 Seabreeze Boulevard. The project includes space for the dockmaster, a ticket office, a waiting area, a public restaurant, and an event space. Final approval of the project is subject to entering into a comprehensive agreement with Water Taxi of Fort Lauderdale and the City. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3thYh0T.

Commission Approves Affordable Housing Development Agreement

The City Commission approved an Affordable Housing Development Agreement and Assumption of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement with Habitat for Humanity of Broward, Inc. Habitat for Humanity has proposed to develop a townhouse community with 20 affordable residential units at 1040 NW 20th Street. Habitat for Humanity will restrict all the units within the development to those who are considered extremely low-income (less than 30% of the area median income), low-income (less than 80% of the area median income), and moderate-income (less than 120% of the area median income). For details, visit ftlcity.info/48rznKS.

Commission Affirms Preference for a Tunnel for Commuter Rail Crossing of the New River

During the afternoon Conference Meeting, the City Commission was given a status update about the New River Crossing for Commuter Rail project and provided with a presentation that put forward a shorter, 1.15-mile tunnel alternative. The consultant is still determining level-4 cost estimates, but the initial rough order of magnitude ranges from \$880 million to \$1.085 billion (2023 dollars).

At the evening Regular Meeting, the City Commission approved, by a 3-2 vote, a resolution that rescinded a prior City Commission action urging the Florida Department of Transportation to recommend the construction of a tunnel as the Locally Preferred Alternative. In its place, the City Commission approved a resolution affirming a tunnel under the New River as the City's locally preferred alternative for the rail crossing and recognizes Broward County as the lead agency for obtaining funding and operation of this portion of the project and supports the county in advancing a mid-level bascule drawbridge if a tunnel is not feasible. The City approved an agreement with BDO USA, P.C. for consulting services to develop the project scope for the New River Crossing project and will continue to explore the tunnel alternative. For details, visit ftlcity.info/472MMrH.

Information

For more information on the December 19, 2023, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at The Parker 707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304.