



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

To view the video of the Commission meetings, visit bit.ly/2mgrQNI.

CONFERENCE MEETING

Fort Lauderdale Aviation Academy

The City Commission agreed to move forward with developing plans for the Fort Lauderdale Aviation Academy, which would offer educational opportunities and learning pathways to address the local aviation job shortage and prepare the future workforce. The academy would be housed at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) with programming delivered through education and business partners. For details, visit bit.ly/2kSFbuT.

Avionics Pilot Program at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)

City Commissioners agreed to launch an avionics training pilot program with a cohort of 20-25 high school and adult students beginning in January 2020. The pilot program is a partnership with Broward County Public Schools, Atlantic Technical College, Broward College, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and an Advisory Council of aviation businesses at FXE. The program will be co-located at Atlantic Technical College (ATC) and FXE, with a classroom lab at ATC and hands-on learning at FXE through business partners. The curriculum will be customized to meet the specifications of industry partners and to prepare students for aviation jobs or advancement into post-secondary degree programs. For details, visit bit.ly/2kSFbuT.

Design and Construction Manual for a Sustainable Future

The City Commission was presented with an overview of a new Design and Construction Manual (DCM) that provides a set of guidelines on how to develop a more sustainable and resilient community and establish a cohesive public realm. The DCM offers a menu of options and strategies to help the City achieve its sustainability and resiliency vision and allow staff communicate the City's ideals to designers, developers, and neighbors. For details, visit bit.ly/2kKnqht.

Uptown Urban Village Master Plan

The City Commission received an update on the progress of the Uptown Urban Village Master Plan. The plan encompasses a 353-acre area bounded by McNab Road (north), NW 57 Street (south), Powerline Road (west), and I-95 (east). The vision for the area centers on creating a transit-oriented urban neighborhood with office, residential, retail, hospitality, civic, and educational uses in a pedestrian-friendly environment that supports multimodal transportation options and easy access to parks, services, and amenities. For details, visit bit.ly/2mkKHGX.

SECOND BUDGET HEARING

Millage Rate of 4.1193 Adopted for FY 2020

The City Commission approved an operating millage rate of \$4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value for Fiscal Year 2020 which begins on October 1, 2019. This marks the 13th consecutive year that the millage rate has not been increased. The Commission approved a debt service millage rate of 0.2250 which will generate revenue to pay for four separate general obligation bonds, including the recently passed public safety bond and parks bond. For details, visit bit.ly/2kTZjwA.

Five-Year Community Investment Plan Adopted

The City Commission approved a Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024. The CIP is a planning document that sets forth the City's capital improvement objectives to ensure that municipal facilities and infrastructure improvements are appropriate and adequate to serve the needs of our neighbors. Total CIP funding for fiscal year 2020 is \$44.8 million. Highlights include infrastructure improvements to water and wastewater systems, replacing seawalls and bridges, electrical and lighting upgrades, street and roadway enhancements, and facility upgrades. For details, visit bit.ly/2knIH18.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 Adopted

The City Commission adopted the final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which begins on October 1, 2019 and ends on September 30, 2020. The final budget of \$832,517,813 includes a millage rate of \$4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value and a fire assessment fee of \$311 per residential dwelling. In addition, the City is entering year two of a four-year plan to phase out Return on Investment (ROI) from the Water and Sewer and Central Region Wastewater Funds. The FY 2020 budget includes a \$10.2 million or 50% reduction in the ROI being charged to these two funds. In year three, the ROI will be further reduced to \$5.1 million, and in year four, it will be completely eliminated from the budget. The structurally balanced budget will enable the City to continue to provide quality services and advance priorities that include strengthening our water and sewer infrastructure, enhancing public safety, combating flooding and sea level rise, and addressing traffic congestion, transportation, and homelessness. For details, visit bit.ly/2krIJEa.

REGULAR MEETING

EMT Students to Ride Along with Fire Rescue Paramedics

The City Commission approved a three-year agreement with the School Board of Broward County to allow Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students to ride along with Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue paramedics to gain practical experience. The agreement will begin on September 27, 2019 and conclude on September 26, 2022. For details, visit bit.ly/2kWWACB.

City Accepts Grant from DDA for Mobility Study

The City Commission accepted a \$25,000 grant from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to help fund a traffic study that will examine the challenges and opportunities associated with converting Andrews Avenue and 3rd Avenue in Downtown Fort Lauderdale to a one-way pair network. The \$200,000 study will be funded by the City of Fort Lauderdale (\$75,000), DDA (\$25,000), and Broward County (\$100,000). For details, visit bit.ly/2mk6E94.

Canoe Launch Coming to Coontie Hatchee Park

The City Commission approved a contract with Sagaris Corporation to construct a canoe launch at Coontie Hatchee Park, located at 1116 SW 15 Avenue along the bank of the New River. The project will include construction of a sandy beach at the east end of the park that will be used to launch canoes and kayaks, a mangrove island, new lighting, and additional landscaping. For details, visit bit.ly/2m5ZGUZ.

Rezoning Approved for Proposed West Village Project

The City Commission approved on first reading the rezoning of approximately 1.5 acres of land located at 501 NW 7 Avenue to unify the site under a consistent zoning designation. Plans have been submitted for the property to be developed as West Village, a proposed six-story mixed-use building with 455 multi-family units and 17,752 square feet of street-level commercial and retail space. For details, visit bit.ly/2m1t6Um.

Parking Reductions for Historic Properties

The City Commission approved on first reading an ordinance to allow parking reductions and exemptions for qualified adaptive reuse projects on properties that are locally designated historic landmarks and contributing properties within a locally designated historic district. The proposed amendment allows for parking reductions for residential use, and reductions and exemptions for commercial uses. For details, visit bit.ly/2kl33ke.

Human Relations Ordinance for Equal Rights

The City Commission unanimously passed an ordinance providing equal protection for the LGBTQ community. The measure supplements federal, state, and county antidiscrimination laws by prohibiting discrimination in employment, public accommodations, real estate transactions, and housing. In addition, the ordinance establishes domestic partnership protections and bans conversion therapy on minors. For details, visit bit.ly/2kX2yDs.