



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 6, 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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Commission Hears from Board regarding Economic Development across the City

Members of the Economic Development Advisory Board discussed strategy and requested direction from the Commission as to how the Board can support and add value to some of the City's efforts around economic development. The Board proposed recommendations intended to spur economic diversification, economic development, and business development, focusing on attraction, retention, and growth throughout the City. Recommendations included diversifying the types of industries active in the City, attracting start-up ventures, creating more office space to draw larger businesses, and focusing on safety and mobility. The Commission noted interest in promoting the lifestyle and attributes Fort Lauderdale uniquely offers in South Florida, including the IT space, specifically artificial intelligence, the movie business, and emerging industries that will help shape the future. For details, visit ftlcity.info/43o2nBm.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Staff Presents Proposed City-Sponsored Events for 3rd Quarter for Commission's Review

City Staff updated the City Commission about proposed events scheduled between July 1 and September 30. The City-sponsored events for the 3rd Quarter are Fourth of July Spectacular, Starlight Musicals, Summer Jamz, and David Deal Playday. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Ng89iG.

Commission Provided Update about the Microtransit Pilot Program

Launched in August 2022, the microtransit pilot program, referred to as the LauderGO! Micro Mover, powered by Circuit, has experienced high demand and now averages about 22,500 riders each month. The pilot program was extended an additional six months and the service area has expanded twice, first along Sistrunk Boulevard and then into Galt Mile. The current pilot program is scheduled to end in September 2023, and City staff is exploring options to continue offering the services into the future. City staff is also pursuing county and state funding that could combine service areas and expand to parts of the City not currently included. The City has been approved for phase I of the county surtax microtransit program led by

Broward County Transit, which has selected two areas for the three-year pilot program – south of Broward Boulevard, west of I-95, and south of Broward Boulevard between I-95 and Federal Highway. The state-funded program would expand service to the northwest portion of the City by repurposing existing grant funding that would provide approximately two years of service. The Commission noted the service’s popularity and its value to the community. Commissioners encouraged efforts to expand the service areas and pursue additional funding options. For details, visit ftlcity.info/42no573.

Commission Provided Status Update of City Hall

The City Commission continues to explore options regarding City Hall, which was severely impacted by the April flood event and has been uninhabitable since. It currently costs approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000 per day to preserve the building and maintain IT functions. Staff provided an overview of the potential insurance reimbursements should the decision be made to repair or shut down the building. With approximately 300 City employees displaced following the loss of City Hall, the Commission directed staff to identify options to provide cost-effective working spaces. The Commission will further discuss the status of City Hall at the June 20 meetings. For details, visit ftlcity.info/43rMfyy.

Commission Discusses Mediation with Miami Beckham United and Options of Lockhart Park

Miami Beckham United, Inc. is in a public-private partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale to construct a training facility, stadium, and community recreation site. The deadline to complete the project is July 18, 2023, and the City entered into a mediation process with Miami Beckham United to address outstanding issues. Those issues include time for the completion of the construction of the community site, Miami Beckham United, Inc.’s request for reimbursement of the costs for the demolition of Lockhart Stadium and Fort Lauderdale Stadium, and payment of outstanding building permit fees. Following a May 30 mediation meeting, the City and Miami Beckham United reached an impasse. Under the amended Comprehensive Agreement, if the project is not completed by the deadline, the City can proceed with the design and construction of the site at the City’s expense, and then seek reimbursement from Miami Beckham United. The Commission will invite representatives of Miami Beckham United for a public discussion at an upcoming meeting before the summer break. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3WQvESK.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

CRA Board Approves Development Incentive Program Loan for Affordable Housing Project

The Community Development Agency (CRA) Board approved a resolution for a \$2 million Development Incentive Program forgivable loan for the New Hope Affordable Housing Development located at 1316 Sistrunk Boulevard. The project features a four-story development with 30 rental units with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and ground-level parking. The project, expected to cost approximately \$6.43 million, will bring affordable housing to the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area. Construction is expected to start this year and be completed in 2024. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3NfaSZD.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Agreement to Purchase and Install Three Lifeguard Towers

The City Commission approved an agreement with Bausch Enterprises, Inc. to purchase and install three ocean rescue lifeguard towers. The initial one-year contract amount is \$268,450, and the resolution authorizes the City Manager to approve four one-year renewal options in the same estimated amount for a potential total contract amount of \$1.34 million. The City owns and operates 20 lifeguard towers on our beaches, and the average life expectancy of a lifeguard tower is 15-20 years due to environmental conditions. The new lifeguard towers will be placed at the following locations: Tower 12 at 800 N. Atlantic, Tower 11 at 600 N. Atlantic, and Tower 4 at 602 Seabreeze Road. The contract will allow the City to purchase additional towers as needed according to the replacement plan over the next five years. For details, visit ftlcity.info/43laqsn.

Commission Approves Award of Design Consulting Services for Las Olas Mobility Project

The City Commission approved the award of design consulting services for the Las Olas Corridor Mobility Project with Kimley-Horn & Associates and with WSP USA, LLC. The evaluation committee determined both Kimley-Horn and WSP USA, LLC to be the highest-ranked, responsive, and responsible proposers. With the approval of the award of design consulting services to both firms, the next step is for staff to start negotiations with each of them, including pricing. After negotiations are completed, the proposed agreement(s) will require further City Commission approval. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3WSR9II.

Commission Approves Agreement for the Development of Affordable Rental Housing Project

The City Commission approved an agreement with Broward Housing Solutions to award HOME-ARP funds in the amount of \$1.1 million for the development of an affordable rental housing project. The agreement also authorizes the City Manager to execute all documents necessary and incidental to the project. In 2021, the City was awarded \$2.6 million in HOME-ARP funds to be used for qualifying at-risk individuals or families, including those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. There is no known fiscal impact to the General Fund, though there will be a fiscal impact in the FY 2020-2021 HOME-ARP funds of \$1.1 million. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3PgwlDd.

Commission Approves Agreement for Streetscape Improvements at NE 4th Avenue

Following additional public outreach, the City Commission approved a construction agreement for streetscape improvements at NE 4th Avenue with FG Construction, LLC in the amount of \$864,106, which includes \$5,000 in allowances for permits, licenses, and fees. The project is located at NE 4th Avenue, between Sunrise Boulevard and NE 13th Street, and work to be accomplished includes widening the sidewalks, trees, an irrigation system, decorative pavement treatments, a district sign, and infrastructure for future lighting. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3NOZWOG.

Commission Approves Plan to Pay Certain Fees for Property Owners Impacted by the Flood

The City Commission approved a resolution that authorizes the payment of building permit fees and exemption from other fees on behalf of property owners for properties requiring

renovation and repairs due to the April 2023 flood event. The severe weather event left many residential and commercial properties with significant damage, and permanent repairs to restore structures to pre-storm condition are to be completed by qualified and licensed contractors. To assist property owners, the City Commission agreed that the City would pay building permit fees for renovation and repairs on behalf of applicants. Permit applicants will continue to be responsible for additional fees collected for county and state assessments. Permit fees that involve activities such as zoning and landscaping reviews and inspections are to be exempted to reduce expenses associated with repair and restoration. Based on the expected average building permit fee of \$355, staff suggested a total of \$400,000 from the General Fund to offset the cost to property owners. To provide further relief, building officials will not require building permits for items such as the removal of affected equipment and other items if they are not structural in nature. Property owners in need of building fee assistance may contact the Building Services Division directly for more information on the program and how to apply for a building permit by calling (954) 828-6520 and selecting Option 1. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3CiCBT7.

Commission Gives Initial Approval to Rezone the Land Under and Around Bahia Mar Hotel

The City Commission approved an ordinance to rezone 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 rezoning will not take effect until and unless the City Commission approves a second reading at the June 20 meeting. Rahn Bahia Mar, LLC is proposing 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/3NdvT79.

Information

For more information on the June 6, 2023, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.