



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 special meetings on Tuesday, October 3, 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 WORKSHOP: 2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Commission Discusses 2024 State Legislative Priorities

The City Commission heard from City staff and representatives from four state lobbyist contract firms about the status and development of the 2024 State Legislative Program. The workshop examined fundamental principles statements, policy priorities, and appropriation requests submitted by the Commission offices and City departments and divisions. Some of the 2024 Commission Legislative Priorities discussed included housing and community development; infrastructure, resilience, and transportation; and public safety, among others. The legislative priorities will be updated following feedback and guidance from the Commission and brought back for final approval at a future meeting date. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3RJqXtj.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Presented with Finding of BBID Expansion Feasibility Study

The City Commission was provided the findings from a study exploring the feasibility of expanding the Beach Business Improvement District's (BBID) geographical boundaries and adding commercial properties within the proposed expanded boundaries to the district. Current BBID annual revenue is approximately \$1.08 million. Some of the stakeholders for key properties in the proposed expansion area indicated that they do not see the full benefits from the primary activities of the district, including marketing and event support. The Commission expressed concerns about the expansion proposal because it does not want to impose additional financial requirements on the businesses in the area. One proposed option would be to expand the BBID boundaries but make participation voluntary, which would require a modification to the current ordinance while showing the value the district brings to businesses. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Q1PrN5.

Commission Hears Update Regarding 30% of Design and Estimated Costs for Lockhart Park

The City Commission was shown a presentation with the latest conceptual renderings and associated cost estimates for Lockhart Park, which is currently in the 30% design phase. Proposed elements of the conceptual site plan include a community center, playground and play area, fitness area, dog park, multipurpose field, and pickleball courts, among other amenities. Additional features include sidewalks, paved parking, restrooms, and infrastructure upgrades. Currently, the total preliminary cost estimate for all elements of the park is approximately \$31.8 million, with the City responsible for about \$12.7 million. The City Commission requested additional stakeholders to participate in the next phase of design development. A 60% design proposal will be brought to the Commission at a future meeting date. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3tdYLod.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

CRA Board Approves Forgivable Loan Increase for the Omegas in Broward, Inc.

The Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners approved an increase in the forgivable loan funding to the Omegas in Broward, Inc., for \$235,000 from the Property Business Improvement Program. The loan increase will be directed toward the renovation, modernization, and build-out of an existing building located at 1108 Sistrunk Boulevard. The work on the building is intended to create a modern meeting and event space for the local community and larger area. The requested forgivable loan amount will be secured by a five-year first mortgage on the property. The action by the board also waives maximum funding amounts, authorizes the CRA executive director to execute all documents related to the transaction, and delegates authority to the executive director to take certain actions. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3LLcqJM.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Acceptance of NFIP Proceeds for Damages to City Hall

The City Commission approved acceptance of insurance proceeds from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for damages to City Hall for \$500,000. The flood insurance coverage under the NFIP provides coverage for \$500,000 after a \$50,000 deductible. Due to a damage repair estimate well in excess of the coverage limit of \$500,000, the NFIP is willing to provide its coverage limits to the City without further documentation. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3QONh06.

Commission Approves Agreement for FTL Beach Park Parking Lot Improvements

The City Commission approved an agreement with Sagaris Corp. for parking lot improvements at the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park Parking Lot for approximately \$559,000. Work at the parking lot, located at 1100 Seabreeze Boulevard, includes asphalt pavement installation, pavement marking and signage installation, concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk construction, landscape restoration, and irrigation to help support special events held at the location. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3LMXhYi.

City Commission Approves Agreement for the South Ocean Drive Bridge Replacement Project

The City Commission approved an agreement with Interstate Construction, LLC for the South Ocean Drive Bridge Replacement Project for \$4.24 million, including allowances of \$20,000 subject to the execution of an extension of the Interlocal Agreement with Broward County. The South Ocean Drive Bridge, located between Mayan and Marion drives, was built in 1952 and rehabilitated in 1968. The Florida Department of Transportation's latest inspection report designated the bridge as structurally deficient. The 2014 Bridge Master Plan determined that the bridge needs to be replaced and that repairs are no longer cost-effective. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3rATjv8.

Commission Approves Proprietary Purchases for Public Works Facilities

The City Commission approved the purchase of proprietary items on an as-needed basis for the water distribution, wastewater collection, stormwater system infrastructures, and treatment facilities in the estimated amount of \$5.6 million. The existing equipment provides reliable service, but the around-the-clock operation in an abrasive and corrosive environment rapidly wears down the equipment. It is less expensive to replace a piece of equipment that has broken down with an exact match from the manufacturer. Recent water and sewer pipe breaks necessitate an increase in funding for the maintenance of pump stations and treatment plants to maintain the current level of service. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3F24slv.

Commission Moves to Enter Negotiations with Top City Attorney Candidate

The City Commission approved a motion to enter into negotiations for a contract of employment with Tom Ansbro to fill the position of City Attorney. The City Attorney Search Committee reviewed applications and resumes submitted for the position and, in September, conducted interviews with three top candidates. The committee recommended the Commission consider Mr. Ansbro for the role. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3rAVdMq.

Information

For more information on the October 3, 2023, Commission special meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.