



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, November 21, 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 SPECIAL MEETING

Commission Sets Process for City Charter Officers' Annual Evaluation

The City Commission agreed to a policy for an annual evaluation process for City Charter Officers, which includes leadership positions that report to the Commission. Charter officers will meet with each member of the Commission before the evaluation date for an opportunity to hear feedback from the Commissioners. Commissioners can use a performance matrix form provided by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) as a guideline for the evaluation. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3QRe0eL.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Provided Additional Information About New River Crossing Project

Representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), consulting firms, and the city's federal lobbying partner provided the City Commission with additional information about the New River Crossing for Commuter Rail project. The Commission examined potential grant and funding opportunities, scope of work and timeline, and details about similar projects underway in the other parts of the country. Next, the Commission is planning to have a joint meeting with Broward County officials on December 5 for further discussion. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3SSJHqT.

Commission Hears Update Regarding Las Olas Parking Garage Façade Lighting

The City Commission discussed options for the Las Olas Parking Garage façade lighting, which wraps the entire structure and was deactivated earlier in 2023 due to ongoing issues with the lighting. The Commission reviewed five potential options to consider moving forward, from replacing all façade lights and upgrading the software for \$2.1 million to deactivating the light programming and leaving the façade as is for no cost. Any future funding would come from the City's Parking Fund. The Commission advised staff to research additional options for lighting products and provide an update within 60 days. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Rb0m7W.

Commission Provided an Update Regarding City Hall Relocation Solutions

The City Commission was presented with an update about ongoing efforts to find space for a temporary City Hall, which was closed and deemed uninhabitable after the April flood event. With more than 300 staff members currently displaced, the City is looking for space that allows for Commission Chambers and staff offices. In August, the Commission approved a sub-sublease at the West Marine building. However, West Marine informed the City in October that it is unable to reach a resolution concerning post-condition approvals for the sub-sublease, prompting its decision to withdraw from the agreement. The City is now exploring space options at Tower 101, located at 101 NE 3rd Ave, and 1901 W. Cypress Creek. For details, visit ftlcity.info/47E75MS.

City Honors Former Mayor Dressler as the 2022 Honored Founder

The City Commission presented a special recognition honoring former Mayor Robert A. Dressler as the Citizens' Committee of Recognition 2022 Honored Founder for his efforts and achievements that have contributed to the betterment of the city. The program began in 1972, and Mayor Dressler is the 147th honoree to be recognized. Mayor Dressler was first elected mayor of Fort Lauderdale in 1982, the first directly elected mayor in the city's history. Before that, the City Commission appointed mayors from among their elected members. He was re-elected to a second three-year term in 1985.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

CRA Board Approves Motion to Pave Way for More Affordable Housing Funding

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners approved a motion to transfer estimated operating and incentive budget balances to the existing Community Investment Plan projects. As amended, the motion allows for \$6 million in unspent funds to pay down current debt, with that \$6 million to apply to incentive funds that allow for more affordable housing opportunities. An additional \$1.88 in unspent funds will be deposited to the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights (NPF) Streetscape Improvement Project to remove blight, improve safety, and help activate the area for the community's benefit. For details, visit ftlcity.info/49NUVmp.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Agrees to Extend Agreement Related to Construction of Pump Station

The City Commission approved an amendment to the revocable license with the United States Government General Services Administration for access to build, construct, and operate Pump Station A-16. The improvements are part of an existing capital improvement project that is underway. The A-16 pump station and a 30-inch water main relocation are part of site improvements to make way for the new Federal Courthouse building. The one-year extension provides additional time while the parties memorialize the long-term access rights. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3GbsvFn.

Commission Accepts \$1.1 Million Grant to Assist with Cooley's Landing Marina Improvements

The City Commission adopted a resolution to accept a \$1.1 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, funds that will assist the renovation of Cooley's Landing Marina. Renovations include improvements to allow for ADA accessibility, seawall improvements, upgrades to existing picnic facilities and restrooms, new landscaping, security lighting, and more. The expected completion date for the project is June 2026. For details, visit ftlcity.info/49LRBlu.

Commission Agrees to Amend the Lease Agreement for Space at Tower 101

The City Commission approved an amendment to the lease agreement between Ivy Tower 101 Property, LLC and the City for a renewal and expansion of office space at Tower 101, located at 101 NE 3rd Avenue. The amended agreement includes 19,000 square feet of existing office space on two floors and expands to an additional two floors with approximately 27,000 square feet of space. Tower 101 serves as a central hub for staff, including those displaced by the April flood event and subsequent closure of City Hall. For details, visit ftlcity.info/49H4PXb.

Commission Moves to Urge the Florida Legislature to Assist Economically Vulnerable Group

The City Commission approved a resolution to urge the Florida Legislature to identify available funding sources that can be used to create a grant and/or low-interest loan program to provide relief to economically vulnerable condominium and co-op owners. The move follows a new requirement instituted by the State of Florida that mandates the use of special assessments and reserve funding accounts for the cost of maintenance and repairs arising from milestone inspections and structural integrity studies. The grant and loan programs would be intended to assist senior citizens and others on fixed incomes who live in their units and may not be able to pay for the costs. Additionally, some condo and co-op associations may need additional funding sources to be able to proceed with required structural repairs. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3G8CV80.

Commission Adopts the Priorities of the City's 2024 State Legislative Program

The City Commission adopted a resolution approving and adopting the Commission Legislative Priorities component of the City of Fort Lauderdale's 2024 State Legislative Program. The Commission had previously adopted the appropriation request portion of the program. The resolution provides direction to staff, lobbyists, and other interested parties as to the official position of the City regarding issues, pending legislation, and funding requests that would affect the operation of local government. In addition, staff will continue to seek grant funding for projects and programs prioritized by the Commission. For details, visit ftlcity.info/49OHW48.

Commission Agrees to Waive Selection Process for New River Crossing Consultation

The City Commission adopted a resolution to waive the formal competitive solicitation and selection processes for consulting services related to the New River Crossing for Commuter Rail project. The City originally procured the services of BDO USA, LLP in October 2023 to define the project, identify federal funding opportunities, and develop an action plan. During the November 21 Conference Meeting, the Commission learned of pending federal funding deadlines and decided to waive the procurement rules to expedite the timeline and provide enough time to develop funding applications before those deadlines.

Information

For more information on the November 21, 2023, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will take place on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at The Broward Center for Performing Arts, located at 201 SW 5th Avenue.