



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, April 16, 2024. 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 – BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD

Commission Updated about Budget Advisory Board Business and 2025 Budget Development

The City Commission received updates from the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) as it began its reviews of department proposals for the fiscal year 2025 budget. The Commission was asked to provide direction regarding its top priorities and whether plans should be made to maintain or potentially increase rates and fees such as the millage rate and fire assessment to guide the BAB in its upcoming meetings. It also asked for direction regarding non-profit funding, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and more. The Board also sought feedback on continued funding for large, high-priority projects such as the construction of a new City Hall and the completion of the new police headquarters. Another top consideration for the FY 2025 budget is the development of a plan to address new legislation recently signed by the Governor of Florida that prohibits individuals from camping or sleeping overnight on any public property, which potentially opens the City to litigation. The Board has held several in-depth meetings so far in 2024, with more scheduled for April through September. The Board will come before the Commission for more joint workshops in June and August. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4d9b9se.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Hears from Special Counsel about Las Olas Garage Façade Lighting Litigation

The City Commission was provided with an update from Special Counsel Gary Brown, whom the City has retained to explore potential litigation regarding the mesh covering and artistic lighting of the Las Olas Parking Garage which the City claims are both defective. Special Counsel Brown indicated that there is a good-faith basis to proceed with litigation against the construction management company, the architect who developed the design, and the subcontractors responsible for installation. The Commission expressed a desire to move forward with the next steps and requested periodic updates at future meetings. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4aTMmGG.

Commission Given an Overview of BDO's Final Report on the New River Crossing Project

City staff provided a presentation focused on the BDO USA final report on the New River Crossing initiative. The report focuses on the development of a tunnel under the New River and includes route alignment, cost estimates, grant funding opportunities, and more. The report proposed a tunnel stretching from Sistrunk Boulevard to SW 7th Street – approximately 1.1 miles in length – at an estimated cost of \$888 million. This plan mitigates right-of-way impacts, does not interfere with train operations during construction, and avoids existing bridge and Brightline pilings. The City Commission provided direction to staff to pursue additional federal grants. For details and to review BDO's report, visit ftlcity.info/4aVTRNm.

Commission Provides Direction for the Recruitment of a New City Manager

With the resignation of current City Manager, the City Commission developed a path to begin the process of recruiting a replacement for the City of Fort Lauderdale's chief executive. The Commission directed staff to hire a firm to begin a nationwide search for candidates. An advisory board comprising members of the public will be developed to review the initial list of candidates and provide recommendations to the Commission. The Commission plans to appoint an interim City Manager at the May 7 Regular Meeting following a discussion during the Conference Meeting to identify the top candidate for the position. The Commission indicated a desire to wait until after the November elections to make a permanent hire. For details, visit ftlcity.info/441T62J.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Amendment that Paves Way for Increased Community Shuttle Hours

The City Commission approved an amendment to the agreement with vendor Limousines of South Florida, Inc. for its LauderGO! Community Shuttle services. The City first entered into an agreement with the organization in 2021 for operations and maintenance of the shuttle service. The amendment includes three changes to the original agreement, including expanded hours of operation for three routes. During the days of operation, the Beach Link and Downtown Link will operate for an additional 2½ hours, and the Las Olas Link will operate for an additional 3½ hours each day. The Community Shuttle is a free service that covers areas that Broward County Transit is unable to serve and connects passengers to the larger transit network in the City. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4cRuvlv.

Commission Approves Concept for SE/SW 17th Street Mobility Hub Project

The City Commission approved a resolution supporting the preferred alternative concept for the SE/SW 17th Street Mobility Hub project and its advancement into the design phase. The proposed project along 17th Street between Federal Highway and SW 9th Avenue includes the completion of sidewalks, implementation of traffic calming measures, addition of raised and separated bike lanes, and new crosswalks, among other improvements. The City has conducted continuous engagement opportunities with the community surrounding the project, particularly in Croissant Park and Poinciana Park, along with other stakeholders and the wider community to help develop initial concepts. During the outreach process, a preferred alternative was chosen by consensus of the participants. This preferred alternative is divided into four segments and includes differing scopes of work: SW 9th Avenue to SW 4th Avenue,

SW 4th Avenue to Andrews Avenue, Andrews Avenue to SE 3rd Avenue, and SE 3rd Avenue to Federal Highway. The project is being developed in partnership with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and will be submitted to receive Federal Transit Administrative grant funding this year. The MPO requires City Commission support by April 30 to move the project into a formal design. Design is expected to begin by the end of 2024 and last approximately 18 months, with construction to follow. Following a discussion, the Commission directed staff to be diligent about the preservation of trees along the site. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3JlrE6K.

Commission Approves Purchase of Robot Capable of Handling Dangerous Materials

The City Commission approved the purchase of an EVO Plus Bomb Robot for approximately \$470,000. The hybrid robot provides crucial safety assistance in the handling of hazardous and explosive materials and enhances the safety and efficiency of Fort Lauderdale Police Department officers. The robot has extended range capabilities, uninterrupted audio and visual transmission to operators, and state-of-the-art cameras. The robot complements tools used by FLPD's SWAT team and Fire Rescue's HAZMAT team. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4aS88ug.

Commission Approved Plan for \$1.2 Million In Improvements at Warfield Park

The City Commission approved a \$1.2 Million agreement with Sagaris Corp. for improvements at Warfield Park. The project, to be completed in four phases, includes landscape improvements, renovation of the community center, playground enhancements, and upgraded infrastructure such as water service, lighting, and more. The City negotiated with Sagaris Corp to reduce the cost of the project by more than \$376,000. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3U0PZU9.

Commission Approves Notice of Intent to Lease City-Owned New River Trading Post Property

The City Commission approved a resolution declaring the City's intent to lease City-owned property located at 330 SW 2nd Street, an area commonly known as the New River Trading Post. What was once the New River U.S. Post Office, the site was rezoned from the Historic Preservation Zoning District to the Regional Activity Center – Arts & Science Zoning District. The project was subject to a ground lease agreement between the City and New River Trading Post, LLC, which was initiated in 2003 and later amended in 2005. The rezoning allows for a project that includes live/work units, a restaurant, retail and office space, and museum facilities. The resolution creates an opportunity for the City to solicit innovative proposals and concepts that align with the ongoing revitalization efforts of Himmarshee Street. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3W0reKt.

Commission Directs \$7.3 Million In Parks Bond Allocations to Carter Park Improvements

The City Commission adopted a resolution authorizing the transfer and use of \$7.3 million in Parks Bond land acquisition fund allocations assigned to District 3 to finance improvements at Carter Park, which is one of the City's Parks Bond Signature Parks. Improvement plans include consolidating multiple buildings on the site into a larger multi-functional regional community center and replacing and improving the playground, splash pad, and artificial turf field, among other amenities. The total cost is estimated at \$25.1 million, with \$7.3 million in Parks Bond, \$2.2 million in CRA funds, \$2 million in park impact fees, and the original allocated funds of \$13.6 million. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3Ji4vSu.

Information

For more information on the April 16, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at NSU Art Museum – Horvitz Auditorium, 1 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.