



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, May 7, 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 CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Discusses Plans for Health and Wellness Center at Holiday Park

The City Commission reviewed plans for a Health and Wellness Center at Holiday Park, to be located just east of Federal Highway between NE 8th Street and NE 9th Street. The project partners the City with the YMCA and Broward Health. The 60,000-square-foot contemporary facility includes 46,000 square feet for the YMCA and an additional 14,000 on two levels for a Broward Health presence. YMCA programs would include swim and water safety classes, water exercise and therapy programs, and more while serving more than 25,000 children and family members and creating upward of 100 jobs. If approved, the facility would be expected to be open to the public in 2027. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4buxtLf.

Commission Examines Future of Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA

With the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) set to sunset in November 2025 after 30 years, the City Commission explored options for next steps. Largely located between Sunrise and Broward boulevards between Federal Highway and the westernmost City limits, the CRA is a special district where increases in property values above the base year of 1995 are set aside to support economic development initiatives within the district. The Commission considered several options for the future of the CRA: 1). Allowing the CRA to sunset in November 2025 with an extension that allows for the completion of ongoing projects and incentives; 2). Extending the CRA for a shorter period, such as 10 additional years; 3). Changing the boundaries of the CRA to areas that still have blight and are in greater need of improvement; 4). And reducing the City's contribution to a smaller percentage of the total tax increment financing (TIF). A 10-year extension would have an impact of approximately \$153 million to the General Fund. The Commission now will discuss options with the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA Board on July 2, 2024, before making a decision. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3UtjXAr.

Commission Provided Update Regarding the Public Camping and Sleeping Statute

The City Attorney's Office briefed the City Commission about discussions with Broward County regarding new legislation recently signed by the Governor of Florida that prohibits individuals from camping or sleeping overnight on any public property. The law, which goes into effect October 1, 2024, prohibits counties and municipalities from allowing any person from regularly engaging in overnight public camping or public sleeping on any public property, including streets, sidewalks, or in parks with or without a tent or temporary shelter. The law permits counties to designate areas for public camping and sleeping if certain conditions are met, including implementing a safety plan and certifying that there is no available space at existing shelters for the homeless population of the County. After meeting with County officials, the County did indicate a willingness to coordinate with the City of Fort Lauderdale and other cities as responses to the law begin to develop. Local municipalities, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, will be responsible for enforcing the law and could be held liable for expenses and attorney fees that result from a successful civil suit brought by a county resident, business owner, or the Attorney General. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4a9vbiz.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Accepts \$500,000 in Grant Funds for Street Safety Improvements in Galt Mile

The City Commission approved the acceptance of \$500,000 in grant funds from FDOT that will be used to assist with the design of Galt Mile Street Safety Improvements project. The scope of the work includes the design of a new roadway surface, safety improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks, enhancements to loading areas and bike lanes, new lighting for nighttime safety and visibility, landscaping and trees, and new signage. The total estimated cost of the design and construction is approximately \$6.4 million. The design is to be completed by June 30, 2025. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3UOFiG8.

Commission Approves Agreement to Award Funds for Affordable Senior Rental Housing

The City Commission approved an agreement with H.O.M.E.S, Inc. to award SHIP funds in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for the construction of affordable multi-family senior rental housing. The City receives SHIP funds from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for the development and preservation of affordable housing, and the City is allowed to award those funds to developers of new or rehabilitated rental units. The funds will be used as gap financing to develop a parcel of land, located at 1210 NE 5th Terrace, as rental housing for low-income individuals ages 62 years or older. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3wslnDp.

Commission Approves Agreement to Award Funds for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

The City Commission approved an agreement with H.O.M.E.S, Inc. to award \$250,000 in HOME-ARP funds for the development and operation of a tenant-based rental assistance program and supportive services. The funds must be used to assist qualifying individuals or families, such as those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and others with the greatest risk of housing instability. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4boUE9v.

Commission Agrees to Design Services for the Western Corridor of the Las Olas Project

The City Commission approved an agreement with WSP USA Inc., for design consulting services for the western portion of the Las Olas Corridor Mobility Project in the amount of \$3.5 million. This agreement will advance the Downtown, Retail Shops, and Colee Hammock areas to 60% design. The Downtown and Colee Hammock character areas will include one concept based on the accepted vision plan while the Retail Shops will include two concepts to 15% design. The first concept will be based on the accepted vision plan and the second concept will include keeping the existing boulevard medians. City staff anticipates the two 15% concepts will be completed in 9 to 12 months at which time the City Commission will determine which concept to advance to 60% design. City staff are in active negotiations for the design of the eastern corridor with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. and plan to bring that agreement for City Commission consideration at an upcoming meeting. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4dqQRUn.

Commission Approves Funds for Disaster Debris Removal and Emergency Logistical Services

The City Commission approved service agreements with two contractors for disaster debris removal and emergency logistical services. The Commission agreed to a \$123.9 million agreement with AshBritt, Inc. serving as the primary contractor and a \$109.8 million agreement with Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. as the secondary (contingent) contractor, both for three-year terms. Two one-year renewal options are available for a potential total contract value of \$206.5 million with AshBritt and \$183 million with Ceres. FEMA recommends the establishment of a prepositioned agreement, which would be activated in the event of a declared emergency or man-made disaster. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3ULFaXR.

Commission Appoints Susan Grant as Acting City Manager

Following a discussion of candidates during the afternoon Conference Meeting, the City Commission unanimously appointed Susan Grant as Acting City Manager and established a salary for the position. Grant, who has served as Assistant City Manager since 2022, is the former City Manager of the City of Aventura, and former Deputy City Manager in the City of Coral Springs. Greg Chavarria announced his resignation at the end of the April 2 Regular Meeting, and the City Charter states that “upon the resignation of the City Manager, the City Commission may by resolution designate some properly qualified person as Acting City Manager to temporarily execute the functions of the City Manager.” Previously, the Commission directed staff to hire a firm to begin a nationwide search for candidates. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3WrW5zN.

Commission Extends By 2 Weeks Permit Allowing Expanded Pier 66 Construction Hours

The City Commission approved the extension of a special permit for two weeks to continue expanded construction hours for the Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina Development from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The original request asked for an additional nine months for the longer construction hours, however the Commission expressed a need for neighborhood outreach before considering the nine-month permit. The Commission will consider the original resolution at the May 21 meeting following discussions with the community. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3QDsFey.

Commission Designates Pier 66 Hotel Tower as a Historic Landmark

The City Commission approved the designation of the property known as Pier 66 Hotel Tower, located at 2301 SE 17th Street, as a historic landmark. The property owner submitted a complete application for historic landmark designation in 2022, and the Historic Preservation Board unanimously approved the request. The application was later revised to include the designation of only the tower and not the entire site where the building is located. The Pier 66 Hotel Tower is historically significant for its association with the Phillips Petroleum Company and its mid-20th Century modern architectural design. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4bJEcRJ.

Yearlong Moratorium Related to Waivers for Docks, Slips, Etc. in New River Fails

Following a discussion, the City Commission opted to not introduce the first reading of an ordinance imposing a one-year moratorium for the submittal, processing, and granting of any waivers to construct docks, boat slips, mooring piles, etc., that extend beyond the maximum distance from the applicant's property into the New River. The moratorium was an effort to balance the functional navigability of the river and property owner's ability to enhance their waterfront property. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4b2SCw6.

Information

For more information on the May 7, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at NSU Art Museum – Horvitz Auditorium, 1 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.