

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2020

5:01 PM

First Budget Hearing
City Hall is Closed to the Public.
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CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III
BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participated telephonically), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman (participated telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, (participated telephonically) Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated telephonically) and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the virtual format of this meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [20-0550](#)

Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget - (1) Tentative Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Tentative Budget - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing. He stated the item and its purpose.

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom stated the Fiscal Year 2021 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Budget.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Vice Mayor Glassman. Roll call showed: AYES: Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None.

Mayor Trantalis announced the tentative millage rate for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District purposes will be 1.0000 mill which represents an increase of 5.05% over the rolled-back rate of 0.9519 mills.

Vice Mayor Glassman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED - Proposed Millage Rate - 1.0

Aye: 5 - Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis announced the final public hearing on Agenda item BGT-1 would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020. He expounded on details regarding the virtual format of that meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED - Tentative Budget - \$110,000

Aye: 5 - Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-2 [20-0551](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing. He stated the item and its purpose.

City Manager Lagerbloom stated the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes. .

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the anticipated Fund Balance, City Auditor Herbst said this had not yet been determined, expounding on details and citing examples.

Laura Reece, Budget, CIP and Grants Division Director, said the projected Fund Balance amount is \$84,400,000, representing twenty-four percent (24%) of operating expenses. This is above the Government Finance Officers Association recommendation to have two (2) months of operating expenses or sixteen point six-seven percent (16.67%) in the

Fund Balance.

Mayor Trantalis said this is the time for members of the public to speak on this budget item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Suzee Bailey, 105 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Bailey inquired about moving forward with the waterway quality testing program next month and utilizing Miami Waterkeeper services, expounding on her perspective and related concerns.

City Manager Lagerbloom said this inquiry is applicable to Agenda Item BGT-4. He anticipates that funding for waterway quality testing would be added to the FY 2021 Budget. The Miami Waterkeeper proposal exceeds the threshold amount the City Manager would be able to approve. City Manager Lagerbloom explained a scope of work will need to be written and a version of competitive bidding would take place. Staff will do this as quickly as possible at the beginning of FY 2021.

Ms. Bailey commented on the City's extensive timeline to develop a plan to address a plan of action for waterway restoration. She discussed the sixteen (16) day timeline for the City of Miami's waterway restoration. As requested by Vice Mayor Glassman, she expounded on research done throughout the State on this topic.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the inability of City Manager Lagerbloom to approve and move forward on items in excess of \$50,000, the required process and details related to diminished funding as a result of COVID. He confirmed the Commission commitment to waterway cleanup, expounding on related details, approaches and sustainability. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Chettle, 200 S. Birch Road. Mr. Chettle discussed his perspective regarding the meeting process and the ability of the public to comment on agenda items before the Commission. He discussed the need for public participation and input during budget development addressing infrastructure relative to development, under-served areas and recurring problem areas.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Commission's responsibility to clarify facts, expounding on his perspective.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's questions regarding the financial position of the City as it relates to COVID, Mayor Trantalis noted the anticipated shortfall of \$34,000,000 in revenue due to circumstances

surrounding COVID as communicated by City Manager Lagerbloom.

City Auditor John Herbst expounded on the significant impact of COVID to the revenue stream, including revenue reductions from Florida Power and Light, citing examples. There was a reduction in State shared sales tax revenue and Parks and Recreation Department Program revenue. Mr. Herbst explained unanticipated COVID related expenses, i.e., overtime, anticipated to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He expounded on additional details.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the \$34,000,000 revenue shortfall was COVID related.

Mayor Trantalis clarified the General Fund revenue shortfall communicated by City Manager Lagerbloom on May 8, 2020 was approximately \$20,000,000. The additional amounts contributing to the \$34,000,000 discussed relate to deficits in Enterprise Funds due to COVID.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed: AYES: Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None.

Mayor Trantalis announced:

- A. The recommended millage rate for all general City purposes exclusive of debt service will be **4.1193** which represent a **4.115%** increase in the millage rate over the rolled-back rate of **3.9565** mills.
- B. The recommended millage rate for debt service for the 2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds is **.0259**.
- C. The recommended millage rate for debt service for the 2011A General Obligation Bonds is **.0275**.
- D. The recommended millage rate for debt service for the City's Voter Approved Public Safety Bond is **.0936**.
- E. The recommended millage rate for debt service for the City's Voter Approved Parks Bond is **.0748**.

Vice Mayor Glassman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-3 [20-0552](#)

Resolution Adopting the Tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2025 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing. He stated the item its purpose.

City Manager Lagerbloom stated the Tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2021.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Shawn D. Arbeiter, 1546 Argyle Drive. Mr. Arbeiter confirmed the importance of this item to address stormwater plans to correct significant flooding on Argyle Drive which has no drainage, expounding on details and delays in projects addressing flooding in this area previously scheduled in 2017.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom said funding for this stormwater project is included in the FY 2021 Budget in the amount of \$225,424. There is an additional \$255,969 in proposed funding in the FY 2022 Budget for a total of \$481,393.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Chettle, 200 S. Birch Road. Mr. Chettle discussed Community Investment Plan (CIP) funding, carry-forward projects and the ability to ensure projects are addressed, noting the need for a discussion at the Commission level.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the work of the previous City Management. Following Commission action and new City Management, there are currently one hundred fifty (150) capital infrastructure projects in the planning, design or construction phase. Mayor Trantalis confirmed projects are continuing to move forward, citing examples and expounding on details.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Mayor Trantalis' comments, expounding on details and citing Staff efforts.

Laura Reece, Budget, CIP and Grants Division Director, explained aspects of unspent CIP funds that contribute to the ability to secure

financing for CIP projects. Prior to awarding a contract, funding must be in place.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested a Staff update on the status of the CIP project addressing Riviera Isles seawall number sixteen (16). It is the responsibility of neighbors to raise the seawall at their cost and is mandated to be completed by September 2021. He also requested an update on the Riviera Isles seawall number seventeen (17) and Southeast Master Plan improvements.

Raj Verma, Public Works Department Director, confirmed Riviera Isles seawall number sixteen (16) is mandated by court order to be completed by September 2021. He confirmed Riviera Isles seawall number seventeen (17) is five (5) to ten (10) years out due to funding, expounding on details. Mr. Verma said he would work to expedite seawall number seventeen (17) and include it in the Stormwater Improvement Program. Additional seawalls are on track for the next two (2) to three (3) years.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on Surtax projects. City Auditor Herbst commented on his understanding that there is a decrease in CIP funding due to the Broward County-wide one-half (1/2) cent sales tax funding CIP projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Reece confirmed the three projects that will be funded through Surtax funding and no longer funded from the General Fund.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question regarding the reallocation of those projects funds, Ms. Reece explained revenue shortfalls in other areas of the General Fund, i.e., gas tax and other State revenue.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding the budget and the expiration of CIP budget items, citing examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the need for budget transparency and the mandate for the budget to be structurally balanced, citing examples. CIP projects are funded from the General Fund. CIP project funding can be used to offset other General Fund items. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the need for Staff to bring these budget items to the attention of the Commission or have a different budget process. Further comment ensued.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed: AYES: Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None.

Mayor Trantalis announced the final public hearing on items included in Agenda Item BGT-3 would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020. He expounded on details regarding the virtual format of that meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-4 [20-0553](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget, Personnel Complement, and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing. He stated the item its purpose.

City Manager Lagerbloom stated the Fiscal Year 2021 Tentative Budget, Personnel Complement, and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bonnie Clearwater, Director and Chief Curator, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Art Museum. Ms. Clearwater thanked Mayor Trantalis, the Commission and City Manager Lagerbloom for their support. She expounded on NSU Art Museum efforts and goal of bringing the community together. Ms. Clearwater explained NSU Art Museum's efforts to serve the community in a virtual manner during COVID, both educationally and creatively. Plans are moving forward with Parks and Recreation for virtual live interactive art activities and field trips for students. Commission support contributes to art infrastructure that helps build community and develops tourism and economics contributing to the preservation of jobs during this crucial time. Mayor Trantalis thanked Ms. Clearwater for NSU Art Museum's contributions to the community.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Vice Mayor Glassman made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed: AYES: Vice Mayor Glassman, Commission McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None

Mayor Trantalis announced the tentative total of all funds budgeted for the City of Fort Lauderdale is \$832,517,813 to will fund the various operations of the City of Fort Lauderdale for the fiscal period beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. This includes the General Fund and all Enterprise Funds.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Alain Boileau confirmed Commission Sorensen does not have to recuse himself due to the relation of the line item to the size of the budget. Under Florida law, if there is no conflict of interest, a Commissioner is required to vote. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis announced the final public hearing on items included in Agenda Item BGT-4 would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020. He expounded on details regarding the virtual format of that meeting, including how members of the public can view and participate.

Commissioner McKinzie introduced the Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Vice Mayor Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey A. Modarelli
City Clerk