

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall
100 N. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov



Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Thursday, September 12, 2013

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
BOBBY B. DuBOSE Commissioner - District III
ROMNEY ROGERS Commissioner - District IV

LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY MODARELLI, Assistant City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Seiler.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler, Vice Mayor- District I Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose, and Commissioner Romney Rogers

Also Present: City Manager, Lee R. Feldman; City Auditor, John Herbst; Assistant City Clerk, Jeffrey Modarelli; City Attorney, Cynthia A. Everett

Vote Roll Call Order for this Meeting

Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, and Mayor Seiler

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Commissioner Trantalis

BUDGET AGENDA

PH-1 13-1253 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - BEACH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - IMPOSING RATE OF ASSESSMENT AND APPROVING ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that this assessment imposes a fee on certain portions of beach property to establish funding to support services, facilities and, or programs providing a special benefit to business properties within the district boundaries. Fiscal Year 2014 assessment rate is recommended at \$.8525 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to generate an estimated \$667,702.74 in gross revenue.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

PH-2 13-1251 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CONSIDER IMPOSING FIRE-RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY - for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014; approving rate of assessment and assessment roll - provision of Fire-Rescue services

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that this assessment provides funding for fire suppression services, facilities, and, or programs that will benefit the City in its entirety, such as facility improvements, equipment and costs of operations of the City's fire rescue services and facilities. The single family residential assessment rate is recommended at \$225 per year, a \$90 increase or \$7.50 per month. The total assessment will generate an estimated \$33,497,746 in gross revenue to the general fund.

Debbie Lee, 1422 NE 5 Terrace, indicated that she owns a four-unit residential property. The assessment is increasing from \$500 to \$900. She suggested a charge for each response. Some residences have more occupants and more emergencies. Her building has never called upon the fire department. The City Manager explained fire suppression is separate from fire rescue and articulated the difference.

Jim Moyer of Salvation Army, introduced Major Debbie Hudson, Director of Special Services for Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center in Fort Lauderdale. Major Hudson explained the Center is solely supported with the receipt, processing and sale of donated materials. All of the Salvation Army's adult rehabilitation centers are exempt from ad valorem taxes. They are concerned that they will be assessed a fire assessment fee for the first time. They wish to formally object to any portion of their property not being exempt from this assessment. It will have a significant impact on services. She submitted a letter, dated September 12, 2013, expressing their objection, that was made a part of the record. Mayor Seiler noted that there is a procedure to challenge the commercial designation. He believed the issue has been created with the commercial operation being intermingled with the non-commercial.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, supported the idea of charging the assessment on commercial operations of non-profit organizations. He was concerned about the potential for other assessments to pay for the police department, for example.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Commissioner DuBose said he sees this as a tax. It will disproportionately impact the less fortunate. He was not confident that all of the contemplated capital projects will be completed within the year. He requested quarterly status reports. It is possible that the reserve percentage could exceed the Commission's policy. With some thinking that all of the projects would not be completed in the year, the assessment increase could have been decreased. Going forward, he would like options presented.

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Rogers

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Trantalis and Commissioner DuBose

PH-3 13-1213 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE MILLAGE RATE - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the Fiscal Year 2014 budget includes maintaining the current millage rate of 4.1193 and increasing the annual fire assessment to \$225 per single-family residential unit. He added that the current millage is a 4.17 percent increase over the rollback rate.

He outlined the premises on which the budget was based and increases that are proposed to maintain the same level of service.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, claimed there are other communities with a lower millage rate and acceptable public schools. Some decrease would have been welcomed, but there are obligations of the City that will force the millage rate to rise. The pension obligation bond will determine what will happen to the City's future.

James Chastanet, 700 NE 14 Place, advocated raising the millage rate. There have not been any improvements in his neighborhood for years. He displayed a photograph of the sidewalk in his neighborhood that is attached to these minutes. Mayor Seiler explained the property owners are responsible for adjacent sidewalks pursuant to code. The City Manager advised that this budget includes \$780,000 for sidewalks that has never been funded before.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

PH-4 13-1280 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the total general fund budget for fiscal year 2014 is \$345,277,771. The total all funds budget is \$832,277,622. Increases that require maintaining the same millage rate are increasing for: landscape maintenance at \$500,000, entranceways and signage at \$220,000, police laptop computer replacement at \$700,000, security camera and public safety strategy citywide program \$1,000,000, ordinance updates to various master plans at \$400,000, downtown walkability plan implementation at \$500,000, street resurfacing at \$470,000, sidewalk program at \$780,000, bridges master plan at \$250,000 and capital maintenance plan at \$2.1 million.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, read a prepared statement from his district commissioner, District II, in opposition to the fire assessment rate increase which is attached to these minutes. He

asked what has been budgeted for the police salary increase this coming year. Mayor Seiler advised that there is no cost of living adjustment in the budget.

There being no other individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner DuBose commented that a resident suggested the City re-think the idea of planting Coconut Palms in the medians because falling coconuts could present a problem. Commissioner Trantalis advised that he was informed that the coconuts are removed when they are a very small size.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Rogers

Nay: 2 - Commissioner Trantalis and Commissioner DuBose

PH-5 13-1250 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - LAUDERDALE ISLES WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT - LEVYING A NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND APPROVING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on behalf of Lauderdale Isles Water Management District

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district assesses residents of this special district to address water quality issues. Their board voted to continue levying an assessment of \$15 per parcel for fiscal year 2014. Their total budget adopted by the board is \$89,701.12.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

PH-6 13-1249 FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - SUNRISE KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - MILLAGE RATE - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district taxes the residents of this special district to provide security to their neighborhood. The district voted their millage at 1.0000 mill to generate revenue to provide that service.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner Trantalis introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

PH-7 13-1281 PUBLIC HEARING FOR RESOLUTION - SUNRISE KEY NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment and noted its purpose.

The City Manager announced that the district taxes residents of this special district to provide security to their neighborhood. The district voted their millage at 1.0000 mill to generate revenue at its budget of \$75,000, including an unappropriated fund balance of \$613. Expenses are insurance, accounting, administration, vehicle rental, gate and home repairs, security, landscaping, lawn maintenance, miscellaneous charges and contingency totaling \$75,000.

There being no individuals wishing to speak on this matter, a **motion** was made by Vice-Mayor Roberts and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose, Commissioner Rogers, Vice-Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler. NAYS: None.

Commissioner Trantalis introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

Aye:5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

R-1 13-1285 RESOLUTION - SETTING CENTRAL WASTEWATER REGION LARGE USER RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the resolution, which was read by title only.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Manager explained that the large user advisory board reviewed the anticipated cost and determined that the current rate is sufficient. There is a true-up provision if expenses exceed estimations.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

O-1 13-1144 SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING SCHEDULE I OF CITY'S PAY PLAN BY CREATING TWO NEW CLASSES - Stormwater Operations Manager and Organizational Development and Training Coordinator

Vice-Mayor Roberts introduced the ordinance on final reading, which was read by title only.

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Seiler, Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Trantalis, Commissioner DuBose and Commissioner Rogers

OB SCHEDULING EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION FOR CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE V. TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Pursuant to Florida Statute 286.011, the City Attorney requested an executive closed door session which has been scheduled for September 17, at 3 p.m. concerning City of Fort Lauderdale v. Traffic Control Devices (09068635). She also noted who would be in attendance.

There being no other matters to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jonda K. Joseph
City Clerk