



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
SPECIAL MEETING

#24-0687

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: September 12, 2024

TITLE: Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2025 Non-Ad Valorem
Assessment – Utility Undergrounding - **(Commission District 2)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution approving the Utility Undergrounding Assessment Roll for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, beginning October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025.

Background

On May 18, 2010, the City Commission enacted Ordinance C-10-12 creating *Chapter 25, Article IV, Division 2 – Undergrounding* within the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale (Code) that established a process for communities to underground overhead utilities (power, telephone, cable TV, etc.) and created a mechanism for the benefited neighborhood to pay the associated costs through a special assessment.

On November 6, 2012, the City Commission (CAM #12-2384) approved amendments to the special assessment program for the undergrounding of overhead utilities. Section 25-129 of the Code requires approval from at least 70 percent of signed and timely returned ballots from property owners in the assessment area and City Commission approval before a special assessment can be levied upon real properties benefitting from the undergrounding of utilities.

City staff received an application from the Las Olas Isles neighborhood to establish an underground utility line assessment. Staff worked with the utility companies on topographic surveys and designs. In accordance with the ordinance, in 2019, staff issued ballots to property owners within the proposed underground utility assessment area providing an estimate of the total underground utility assessment costs and drawings depicting the location and dimensions of all associated above-grade structures. Almost 90 percent of those responding supported establishing an underground utility line assessment.

The proposed assessment for FY 2025 is \$526,473.68 or \$1,709.33 per Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU), which will generate an estimated \$500,150.00 in revenue. This figure represents the FY 2025 debt service payment for a 25-year special obligation bond with a par value of \$7.9 million. Exhibit 1 details the assessment rate per property in the Utility Undergrounding Assessment Roll.

If the City Commission approves the recommendation, the underground utility line assessment will be collected by Broward County's Records, Taxes and Treasury Division.

Section 25-131.1(a) provides that the underground utility line assessments may be collected pursuant to the uniform method provided in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, and the City shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

The chair of the local governing board or his or her designee is required, per Section 197.3632(5)(a), Florida Statutes to certify the non-ad valorem assessment roll to the Broward County Tax Collector no later than September 15, 2024.

Resource Impact

This Non-Ad Valorem Assessment will generate approximately \$500,150.00 in revenue to support the FY 2025 debt service.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- Guiding Principle: Fiscal Responsibility

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are United.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Utility Undergrounding Assessment Roll

Exhibit 2 - Resolution

Prepared by: Yvette Matthews, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

Charter Officer: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager