

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

5:01 PM

First Budget Hearing

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4

RICHELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Vice Mayor John C. Herbst (arrived at 5:18 p.m.), Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Rickelle Williams, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [25-0703](#)

Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget - (1) Tentative Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Tentative Budget (\$223,168) - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this Agenda item, Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis; NOT PRESENT: Vice Mayor Herbst

Mayor Trantalis and City Manager Rickelle Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-1 budget script.

A copy of the budget script is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

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

ADOPTED - Millage

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

Not Present: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

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

ADOPTED - Budget

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

Not Present: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

BGT-2 [25-0704](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this Agenda item, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed AYES: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-2 budget script.

A copy of the budget script is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Vice Mayor Herbst explained his opposition to this Agenda item and discussed his viewpoint that the millage rate should be reduced.

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

ADOPTED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

BGT-3 [25-0705](#)

Resolution Tentatively Approving and Adopting a Five-Year Community Investment Plan for the Period Beginning October 1, 2025, and Ending September 30, 2030 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on this Agenda item, Commissioner Glassman made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed AYES: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis read the BGT-3 budget script.

A copy of the budget script is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

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

ADOPTED

Yea: 5 - Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-2 DISCUSSION

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Williams confirmed the Commission previously approved 2025 Budget (Budget) line items, including increased Police Department and Fire-Rescue Department personnel salary and benefit contracts (Contracts), and increased capital project costs.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Yvette Matthews, Acting Assistant City Manager, said that the current millage rate was insufficient to meet Budget expenditures, and the Budget includes supplemental budget funding. Ms. Matthews explained details of the Budget process and related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Herbst said that it would be possible to reduce the millage rate and meet the Contract obligations by cutting back in other areas. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Vice Mayor Herbst commented on potential budget reductions. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis requested Vice Mayor Herbst provide potential Budget reductions at the September 12, 2025, Second Budget Hearing.

BGT-4 [25-0706](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Tentative Budget and Personnel Complement for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joseph Kenner, 2701 W. Cypress Creek

Road. Mr. Kenner discussed his support of this Agenda item, specifically support for homelessness funding and the Safe Parking Program.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed his activities in support of homelessness efforts with Broward County (County), cited examples, and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Assistant City Manager. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Cooper confirmed that the County has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Safe Parking Pilot Program and provided related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Cooper explained the City has an independent Safe Parking Program separate from the County's RFP. Mr. Cooper confirmed that staff is assisting County staff with their evaluation of the RFP.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this Agenda item, Commissioner Glassman made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen. Roll call showed AYES: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-4 budget script.

A copy of the budget script is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

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

ADOPTED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Herbst

Mayor Trantalis announced the next public hearing to adopt the final budget will be held at 5:01 PM on September 12, 2025, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom - 201 SW 5 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

David R. Soloman
City Clerk