

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

5:01 PM

First Budget Hearing

The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 5:14 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pam Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, Commissioner John C. Herbst, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [23-0663](#)

Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget - (1) Tentative Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Tentative Budget (\$191,312) - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis read details from the budget script.

City Manager Greg Chavarria presented the proposed millage rate (1.0000) and the tentative budget (\$191,312) for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District, reading from the budget script.

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

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

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

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

ADOPTED - Tentative Millage Rate

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

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

ADOPTED - Tentative Budget

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

BGT-2 [23-0664](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis read details from the budget script.

City Manager Greg Chavarria announced the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale, reading from the budget script.

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

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

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

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

ADOPTED

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

BGT-3 [23-0665](#)

Resolution Tentatively Approving and Adopting a Five-Year Community Investment Plan for the Period Beginning October 1, 2023, and Ending September 30, 2028 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis read details from the budget script.

A copy of the Budget Script is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf

of the Idlewyld Improvement Association. Ms. Fertig commented on the numerous funding needs of the City and discussed concerns related to the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Budget funding allocated for the design of the eastern portion of Las Olas Boulevard. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis explained his viewpoint and the need to begin the design phase. Commissioner Glassman discussed the need to maintain funding for the design of the eastern portion of Las Olas Boulevard and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director. Ms. Reece explained the public hearing process for approval of the FY 2024 Budget. She suggested the Commission approve the FY 2024 Budget as presented to avoid a third public hearing, and Staff could incorporate Commission direction prior to the FY 2024 Second Budget Hearing.

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

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

ADOPTED

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

BGT-4 [23-0666](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Tentative Budget and Personnel Complement for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis read details from the budget script.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

City Manager Chavarria provided his report on the Fiscal Year 2024 City of Fort Lauderdale Tentative Budget, reading from the budget script.

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bonnie Clearwater, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Director. Ms. Clearwater thanked the Commission for its

support of the NSU Art Museum and requested the Commission restore its \$500,000 annual nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Roxanne Zinn, 1548 SE 14th Street. Ms. Zinn spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Wayne Price, 3000 Holiday Drive. Mr. Price spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joy Veasy, 1600 NW 11th Way, on behalf of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee. Ms. Veasy discussed the importance of the City supporting nonprofit funding for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Harry Moon, 1650 SE 8th Street. Mr. Moon spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lisa Quinn, 1517 SW 19th Avenue. Ms. Quinn spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf of the Idlewyld Improvement Association. Ms. Fertig thanked the Commission for funding Microtransit, sidewalks, and nonprofit funding for Stranahan House. She urged the Commission to support additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Renee Jaffe, Early Learning Coalition CEO, 1475 W. Cypress Creek. Ms. Jaffe spoke in support of nonprofit funding for the Early Learning Coalition of Broward.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Whitney Lane, 1605 SE 9th Street. Ms. Lane spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jake Wurzak, 2570 Del Lago Drive. Mr. Wurzak spoke in support of additional nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stephen C. Buckley, 126 NE 17th Avenue. Mr. Buckley spoke in support of nonprofit funding for Stranahan House.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Abbe Kanner, 809 SW 8th Terrace. Ms. Kanner questioned the large utilities increase and expounded on her viewpoint.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager. Ms. Grant explained increased costs necessary to fund water, stormwater and wastewater needs, including the building of a new water treatment plant and its enabling works.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Grant confirmed the existing water treatment plant has reached the end of its useful life and noted water quality improvements that would be realized from the new water treatment plan, which will meet demands of the City's growing population.

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the FY 2024 Budget, which includes \$100,000 nonprofit funding for Stranahan House. He expounded on his support of adding an additional \$250,000 in nonprofit funding to restore the City's previous annual \$500,000 nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's request, Ms. Clearwater discussed NSU Art Museum programs that benefit the community and remarked on related expenses and other funding sources.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, reiterated details regarding the process should the Commission direct Staff to adjust the FY 2024 Budget. Staff would make adjustments to the FY 2024 Budget prior to the Second Budget Hearing.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the need for nonprofit funding equity in all Districts and the importance of providing early childhood education opportunities to single parents while at work. She discussed her viewpoint regarding previous nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented that the reduced amount of nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum should be shared among other nonprofit organizations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recommended representatives of the Carlton B. Moore Foundation present its nonprofit efforts and goals to the Commission. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman agreed.

Commissioner Herbst commented on his support of the NSU Art Museum and the FY 2024 Budget. He confirmed his number one priority is Public Safety and supports hiring additional Police Officers versus additional nonprofit funding.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his viewpoint and noted that nonprofit funding is not a binary choice.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Reece commented on her understanding of the number of additional Police positions added in FY 2023 and noted that fourteen (14) Police positions would be added in FY 2024. Police Chief Patrick Lynn said there are currently approximately thirty-five (35) Police Officer vacancies. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding related details, including three (3) new positions to address homelessness.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the increasing number of homeless in District 1 and discussed his viewpoint.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred on the importance of Public Safety, confirmed the need to address gun violence in District 3, and expounded on her perspective.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the importance of funding nonprofits. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint and concurred with Commissioner Glassman's recommendation to restore the \$500,000 nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

Commissioner Sturman concurred with Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's remarks regarding nonprofit funding for programs in District 3. He recommended discussing this topic earlier in the process for the FY 2025 Budget.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on the need to meet benchmarks and remarked on the opportunity in the FY 2025 Budget to fund smaller productive nonprofit organizations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman noted his support of increased FY 2024 Budget funding for the NSU Art Museum and confirmed the need to fund other nonprofit organizations in the FY 2025 Budget.

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

ADOPTED

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

23-0898

WALK-ON Motion to Increase Funding for Nova Southeastern University, Inc. for NSU Art Museum

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained procedural details associated with providing Staff direction to adjust the budget as discussed.

Commissioner Herbst explained his viewpoint regarding his vote in favor of this motion with the caveat that the Commission implement funding in the FY 2025 Budget to address gun violence prevention in District 3.

Commissioner Glassman made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Sturman.

APPROVED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Sturman, Commissioner Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

David R. Soloman
City Clerk