

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 12, 2025

5:01 PM

Second 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 5:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leila Williams and James Williams

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Vice Mayor John C. Herbst, 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 Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

SECOND BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [25-0785](#)

Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2026 Central Wastewater Region Large User Rate of \$3.22 per 1,000 Gallons of Wastewater Treated - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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 [25-0743](#)

Resolution Approving and Adopting the Final Five-Year Community Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2026- 2030 and Appropriating Funding for Fiscal Year 2026 Community Investment Plan Projects - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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-3 [25-0784](#)

Public Hearing - Annual Assessment Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026 - Stormwater Program Management - (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 and City Manager Rickelle Williams read their respective portions of 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-4 [25-0745](#)

Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Lauderdale Isles Water Management District's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment of \$15 Per Parcel Abutting on the Canals - (Commission District 4)

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

BGT-5 [25-0746](#)

Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Non-Ad

Valorem Assessment - Nuisance Abatement - (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 and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-5 Budget script.

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

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman 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-6 [25-0747](#)

Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment - Las Olas Utility Undergrounding - (Commission District 2)

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 and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-6 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

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

BGT-7 [25-0748](#)

Public Hearing - Beach Business Improvement District Annual Rate Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026 - (Commission District 2)

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 and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-7 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

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

BGT-8 [25-0749](#)

Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Fire Assessment and Assessment Roll for Provision of Fire Services, Programs and Facilities - (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 Sorensen made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. 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-8 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

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

BGT-9 [25-0750](#)

Public Hearing - Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District's Final Millage Rate and Final Budget - (1) Final Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Final 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: 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-9 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: 5 - Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

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

ADOPTED - Budget

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

BGT-1 [25-0751](#)
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Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Millage Rate (4.1193) and Debt Service Millage Rate (0.2306) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-10 Budget script.

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

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

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 Beasley-Pittman. Roll call showed AYES: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding the City's millage rate, noting it has not increased over the past nineteen (19) years, and remarked on related information.

Vice Mayor Herbst commented that the City of Jacksonville had lowered its millage rate and shared his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding a recommended millage rate reduction, Vice Mayor Herbst suggested a 1/2 (one-half) point millage rate reduction that would equate to a \$30,000,000 reduction in property taxes. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding related budget reductions, Vice Mayor Herbst cited examples and expounded on his perspective. Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint. Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities of Charter Offices. Commissioner Glassman discussed the budget process and his viewpoint regarding Vice Mayor Herbst's millage rate and budget reduction recommendations, and expounded on his perspective. Vice Mayor Herbst noted the approach to the budget process in prior years.

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-1 [25-0752](#)
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Public Hearing - Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Final Budget and Personnel Complement for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis and City Manager Williams read their respective portions of the BGT-11 Budget script.

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

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joseph Kenner, 2701 W. Cypress Creek Road, on behalf of Hope South Florida. Mr. Kenner discussed his support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joe Cox, 401 SW 2nd Street, Museum of Discovery and Science. Mr. Cox discussed his support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his viewpoint on this Agenda item and property taxes. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Nelson commented on ways to fund public safety if the State Legislature approved the elimination of property taxes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bonnie Clearwater, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Director. Ms. Clearwater discussed her support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ancel Patr, 1475 W. Cypress Road, The Early Learning Coalitions of Broward County. Mr. Patr discussed his support of this Agenda item.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst explained the information associated with a prior Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes Program (Pilot Program) at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and noted that it could be reinstated. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Williams confirmed staff could explore that option. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained the history of the Pilot Program at FXE and confirmed that staff could revisit reimplementation. Vice Mayor Herbst remarked that the Pilot Program is used at other airports around the country and noted the need to ensure federal regulations are adhered to. Commissioner Sorensen confirmed his support of reinstating the Pilot Program at FXE. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece explained how this Pilot Program would work. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, City Manager Williams explained that staff will present a budget amendment to the Commission at the October 7, 2025, Commission Meeting to transfer Fund Balance Reserves (Reserves) to fund capital projects. She explained related details and confirmed the recommended twenty-five

percent (25%) in Reserves would be maintained. Yvette Matthews, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an update on related information and confirmed that the City adheres to Commission policy and best practices for maintaining adequate Reserves to ensure the AAA bond ratings. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his understanding. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Williams also noted positive input from bond rating agencies related to the City's recent implementation of its Emergency Reserve Fund and explained related input from the bond rating agencies.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Vice Mayor Herbst discussed his recommendation for the Reserve amount, which aligns with the Government Accountability Office's recommendation (GAO) of sixteen-point seven percent (16.7%). He provided additional detail regarding his perspective that the current twenty-five percent (25%) Reserve amount is excessive and discussed related input from bond rating agencies. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the importance of favorable bond ratings, confirmed his openness to discussing a reduction in Reserves, and requested City Manager Williams have related discussions with bond rating agencies to determine an appropriate reduced level of Reserves. City Manager Williams confirmed. Vice Mayor Herbst commented on his understanding of the difference between an AAA bond rating and an A+ bond rating. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Auditor Patrick Reilly remarked on the Reserves. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Auditor Reilly explained his recommendations on Reserves and commented on related options. Ms. Matthews explained details associated with the Reserves calculations.

There being no one else 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: Vice Mayor Herbst, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, and Mayor Trantalis

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

David R. Soloman
City Clerk