

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

11:30 AM

Joint Workshop with Budget Advisory Board

NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium

1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, Commissioner John C. Herbst, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Budget Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Jeff Lowe, Vice Chair William Brown, Jeremiah Carter, Mildred Lowe, and Melissa Milroy

Budget Advisory Board Members Not Present: Ross Cammarata, Michael Marshall, Prabhuling Patel, and John Rodstrom

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly (participated via communications technology)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS**BUS-1** [24-0402](#)

Budget Advisory Board Business Updates / FY 2025 Budget Development - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Budget Advisory Board (BAB) Chair Jeff Lowe remarked on his qualifications and financial background. Each BAB Member in attendance introduced themselves.

Chair Lowe confirmed BAB's goal to fund Commission priorities and said that maintaining the current millage rate would not be adequate to fund the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) financial responsibilities and Commission priorities. He remarked on the need for the Commission to revisit funding for non-profit organizations in the FY 2025 Budget. Chair Lowe requested Commission direction regarding its top priorities, including continued funding for large, high-priority projects such as constructing a new City Hall and completing the new Police Department Headquarters. Chair Lowe acknowledged and spoke in support of the Commission's consideration of revisiting the utility billing ordinance and commented on related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Chair Lowe confirmed the exhibits attached to this Agenda item are informational and relate to the

BAB work schedule.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Chair Lowe explained that there is no formal process for funding non-profit organizations (non-profits), commented on his viewpoint, and requested that the Commission discuss and revisit FY 2025 non-profit funding.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chair Lowe discussed BAB's goals to meet public safety goals and other Commission priorities, and confirmed constraints without an increase in the millage rate.

Chair Lowe explained that when BAB receives FY 2025 Budget input from Staff, it will present its recommendations to the City Manager and Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding anticipated City revenue that will be confirmed in June 2024, discretionary FY 2025 Budget items, and possible adjustments.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the order of importance of Commission priorities, Chair Lowe said that the City Manager provided the list of Commission priorities to the BAB. Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, noted that this Joint Workshop is an opportunity for the Commission to prioritize the list.

BAB Vice Chair William Brown remarked on the need for Commission input regarding funding homelessness in the FY 2025 Budget mandated by State legislation taking effect on October 1, 2024. Mayor Trantalis commented on upcoming meetings between City Attorney Thomas Ansbro and the Broward County Attorney to determine funding, expounded on his perspective, and confirmed the need to be proactive to avoid litigation. Commissioner Herbst remarked on challenges associated with determining homelessness costs, recommended funding the first year from the Fund Balance, and said subsequent annual costs for homelessness could be included in future budgets.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman recommended that ongoing BAB discussions focus on affordable housing, including funding the Affordable Housing Trust and determining ways the City can fund affordable housing. Mayor Trantalis requested Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, an Affordable Housing Advisory Committee member, bring affordable housing recommendations to the BAB for consideration.

BAB Member Melissa Milroy commented on significant dollars in the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) fund and requested Commission feedback. Mayor Trantalis remarked on available options, including extending the CRA and using CRA funding for affordable

housing needs or allowing the CRA to sunset and placing the remaining CRA funds into the General Fund. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed the need for an in-depth Commission discussion on this topic, confirmed his request for additional details and information, remarked on input from the County, and expounded on related information. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed the creation of the Invest Fort Lauderdale, Inc. Board of Directors was to ensure existing CRA projects are completed when the CRA sunsets. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the need to focus on affordable housing. City Manager Chavarria said that Staff is preparing a related CRA presentation for the next Commission Conference Meeting. Mayor Trantalis requested that information regarding annual Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding be included. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Chair Lowe agreed that the CRA discussion would be lengthy and commented on various options related to extending the CRA. Commissioner Herbst remarked on his perspective regarding the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights CRA, confirmed its development efforts were accelerated in recent years, discussed the importance of maintaining this momentum to ensure the City's commitment to the area, and cited examples.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.