

City of Fort Lauderdale

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv

www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

5:01 PM

First Budget Hearing

City Commission Chambers

100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

HEATHER MORAITIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the meeting format, including how members of the public can view and participate.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participated via communications technology) and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [21-0840](#)

Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 of the City's Code of Ordinances for Increases to Tapping Charges, Water Rates, Master Meter Charges, Service Availability Charges, Sprinkling Charges, and Fire Service Charges - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom explained aspects of this Ordinance. It gradually increases rates five percent (5%) over the next seven (7) years. He noted the alternative of a one-time thirty percent (30%) rate increase at a future date, which is not recommended. The increased rate would be held in reserve to ensure availability of funds to issue debt in the amount of \$432,000,000 for a new water treatment facility anticipated in *Fiscal Year 2026*.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' questions, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details should the City move forward with a public-private partnership (P3) stating new ratepayer modeling would be employed to determine a recommendation. This Ordinance proactively plans for the City independently constructing a new water treatment plant around year 2026. The deadline for submission of unsolicited proposals ended this week, and four (4) unsolicited proposals were received. Staff will do the due diligence required under State Statute and make a recommendation to the Commission. All applicants would need to submit the required \$90,000 financial review analysis fee to be

considered. The water tapping fee listed in this Agenda item represents costs associated with a new ratepayer line accessing water services and includes separate irrigation lines. Staff will work with neighbors individually to address separate irrigation lines.

Commissioner McKinzie commented that water rates are high in each District.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained AMI water meters would be installed subject to approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and implemented over two (2) years. The current AMI pilot program will determine the vendor brand.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding addressing water quality and questioned the urgency of building of a water plant. He commented on the need to address underground infrastructure delivering water to residents and questioned building a new *Fiveash* while it is working.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the safety of drinking water and noted related technology. The recommendation of the consultant hired to evaluate *Fiveash* recommended its replacement. He expounded on ongoing efforts to address underground infrastructure needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman asked how much is spent annually on *Fiveash* repairs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to anticipate problems and invest in future infrastructure needs. He cited related history, the *Carollo Group* analysis of *Fiveash* and commented on other Broward County municipalities water rates. Further comment and discussion ensued on possible future scenarios, the need to address infrastructure needs and costs spent in recent years on infrastructure upgrades.

Commissioner McKinzie explained his opposition to assessing rate payers prior to building a replacement water treatment plant. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding utilizing a P3, reserve funds and financing for a new water treatment plant.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired on the amount of money and resources spent to upgrade water a sewer pipes over the last three (3) years. City Manager Lagerbloom noted the need to calculate.

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

PASSED FIRST READING

Aye: 4 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 1 - Commissioner McKinzie

BGT-2 [21-0725](#)

Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget - (1) Tentative Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Tentative Budget (\$141,730) - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis read details discussed in the Agenda BGT-2 item script.

City Manager Lagerbloom presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Budget, reading from the attached BGT-2 script.

A copy of the BGT-2 script is attached to these minutes.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None.

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

ADOPTED - Tentative Millage Rate

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

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

ADOPTED - Tentative Budget

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-3 [21-0726](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Millage Rate (4.1193) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis read details discussed in the Agenda BGT-3 item script.

City Manager Lagerbloom announced the City 4.1193 Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2022 and read details discussed in the attached BGT-3 script.

A copy of the BGT-3 script is attached to these minutes.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the script should indicate Fiscal Year 2022, not Fiscal Year 2021.

Commissioner McKinzie explained his perspective regarding raising the millage rate in lieu of ratepayer increases.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Auditor John Herbst commented on the positive financial impact on the Fund Balance realized from efforts to reduce expenses, receipt of federal COVID-related funds and increased new construction. Due to ongoing increases in Staffing costs and similar items, he anticipates this being the last year the millage rate could remain at the current rate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed funding availability in the proposed FY 2022 Budget for Fire-Rescue Department recruits currently attending the *Fire Academy*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Auditor Herbst explained the philosophical difference in raising revenue from ad valorem and assessments and the impact on lower income residents, citing examples. These decisions are policy decisions. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective.

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

ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-4 [21-0727](#)

Resolution Tentatively Approving and Adopting a Five-Year Community Investment Plan for the Period Beginning October 1, 2021, and Ending September 30, 2026 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis read details discussed in the Agenda BGT-4 item script.

A copy of the BGT-4 script is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Leann Barber, President of the Flagler Village Association. Ms. Barber commented on *Park Impact Fees (Fees)*, the need to expend those *Fees* in development proximity from which the *Fees* are collected and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis concurred and requested input from City Attorney Alain Boileau. City Attorney Boileau noted recent iterations of State Statute and confirmed *Fees* should be spent in proximity to where they had been collected. He noted exceptions, i.e., *Fees* contributing towards recreational facility benefiting the entire City, i.e., the *Aquatic Complex*.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff understood the Statute had changed and commented on a nexus used to determine how *Fees* collected in a specific neighborhood would be used or how *Fees* collected City-wide would be used for a recreational facility benefiting the entire City. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau noted there is little guidance regarding the updated Statute, citing examples of his interpretation.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Ms. Barber's comments and noted previous historical use of *Fees* from beach area development in other areas of the City. He suggested requesting developers implement green space within their projects.

There being no one else wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details associated with *Community Investment Plan (CIP)* projects.

Commissioner McKinzie noted the importance of a District Commissioner ensuring their District projects remain CIP projects in the future. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the ability of the Commission to update CIP projects.

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

ADOPTED Tentatively - 5 year Community Investment Plan

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

BGT-5 [21-0728](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget, Personnel Complement, and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis read details discussed in the Agenda BGT-5 item script.

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom provided his report on BGT-5, the Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget, Personnel Complement and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale, discussed in the attached script.

A copy of the BGT-5 script is attached to these minutes.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, City Manager Lagerbloom indicated members of the Commission could address the *Fire Assessment Fee* prior to Commission adoption of the *FY 2022 Budget* at the *September 13, 2021 Second Budget Hearing*.

There being no one wishing to speak on this item, Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to close the public hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman. Roll call showed: AYES: Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis. NAYS: None

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained that non-profit funding requests submitted by Commissioner Glassman could be addressed before adopting the FY

2022 Budget at the September 13, 2021 Second Budget Hearing. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic, non-profit funding recommendations from the Budget Advisory Board, equity and the process.

Mayor Trantalis recommended lists of additional non-profit requests from the Commission be submitted to City Manager Lagerbloom to be considered at the Second Budget Hearing.

Commissioner McKinzie introduced this item which was read by title only.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question regarding the process between this meeting and the Second Budget Hearing and the status of funding additional Fire-Rescue Department personnel, City Manager Lagerbloom said those additional positions are not included in what is being presented tonight.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained his desire for Fire-Rescue Department hiring to coincide with the *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant* cycle funding and related details. He said the twenty-four (24) people in the Fire Academy are not in the field.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his previous understanding of Fire-Rescue Department (Department) personnel needs based on Commission meeting discussions. He noted input from Fire-Rescue Chief (Chief) Rhoda Mae Kerr at the August 2021 Commission Meeting regarding the need for an additional sixteen (16) firefighters and said he previously voted on incorrect information. Vice Mayor Moraitis confirmed this was her inquiry. Further comment and discussion ensued on funding for an additional sixteen (16) firefighters. Commissioner Glassman commented on public advertising of budget items.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chief Kerr said Department budget requests were submitted based on personnel and equipment needs to sustain the Department in Fiscal Year 2022 and to keep the City safe. She explained the sixteen (16) additional positions are not to fill vacancies but to complement existing staff personnel to minimize overtime and maintain minimal staffing, which is why additional staffing was requested. Chief Kerr explained twenty-four (24) individuals are in the cadet Fire Academy and will fill twenty-four (24) current vacancies in the Department.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective supporting sixteen (16) additional Department personnel and related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained increasing the *Fire Assessment Fee* at this point to fund additional Department personnel would not be an option. Commissioner McKinzie confirmed the need to do something.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question regarding the amount of overtime savings realized should the additional Department personnel be hired, Chief Kerr said she did not have that information at this time.

Laura Reece, Management and Budget Office Director, explained details of Department budget request submissions that indicate offsets. She confirmed the \$2,000,000 cost associated with hiring additional Department personnel was net cost.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details of the budget process, the inability to supplant these costs with future SAFER grant funding and related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney Boileau requested clear Commission direction.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Sorensen requested City Manager Lagerbloom return to the Commission with options to fund the additional \$2,000,000 for sixteen additional Department personnel. Vice Mayor Moraitis agreed on the need to look at options. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the ability to fill Department personnel positions, Chief Kerr explained the twenty-four cadets currently in the Fire Academy graduate on October 21, 2021. Sixteen (16) additional positions would be taken from an existing list. Those individuals would need to attend the Fire Academy. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted Commissioner McKinzie had introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED - Tentative Budget

Aye: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Moraitis and Mayor Trantalis

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey A. Modarelli
City Clerk