

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

11:30 AM

Joint Workshop with Budget Advisory Board

City Hall - City Commission Chambers
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. MCKINZIE Commissioner - District III

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, Interim City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 11:44 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Budget Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Brian Donaldson and Vice Chair Jeff Lowe

Budget Advisory Board Members Not Present: Christopher Williams, Prabhuling Patel, Ross Cammarata, Michael Marshall and William Brown

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and Interim City Auditor Patrick Reilly

OLD/NEW BUSINESS**BUS-1** [22-0604](#)

Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund Preliminary Budget - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Chair Brian Donaldson provided a high-level overview of items included in the preliminary Fiscal Year 2023 Budget (FY 2023 Budget), which provides for Commission Priorities identified at the January Goal Setting Session.

The Budget Advisory Board (BAB) unanimously voted for the .041193 ad valorem millage rate to remain the same. A majority of the BAB voted for an increase of the current \$311 Fire Assessment Fee to \$321 for the full recovery of the Fire Assessment Fee. Chair Donaldson confirmed an additional \$20,000,000 from property tax revenue.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chair Donaldson explained the Fire Assessment Fee is more for the costs associated with Emergency Medical Services versus fire suppression services.

Chair Donaldson commented on increased property value revenue. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding increased real estate

values, vacation rentals, and revenue from the American Rescue Plan. He reviewed details associated with the Commission Agenda Memorandum and attached Exhibits.

A primary concern of the BAB is Public Safety. Police Department personnel will be increased by twenty-one (21) individuals including a clinical psychologist, which would cost \$3,100,000 in additional payroll. Other budget funding includes Police equipment needs. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding details of equipment needs.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Police Chief Patrick Lynn said there are currently two (2) Police Officer vacancies. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson explained funding details related to Fire-Rescue Department and Emergency Medical Service (EMS). He remarked on the number of 911 Emergency Medical Service calls and discussed Fire-Rescue Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr's new EMS initiative, adding two (2) additional individuals for a new proactive program entitled the Mobile Integrated Health Program (MIHP).

Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding of additional hires and their impact on Fire-Rescue overtime and requested Chair Donaldson give a presentation. Chair Donaldson confirmed.

Chief Kerr explained authorized hires would be graduating from the Fire Academy on Friday and remarked on attrition. Those hires have not impacted overtime reductions due to the timeline associated with the hiring process and training. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding personnel hiring, overtime costs, and attrition.

Fire-Rescue Public Safety Administrator Paul Vanden Berge explained financial details for attrition-related overtime payroll. He clarified there is not a one (1) to one (1) ratio between salary savings from a vacated position and the cost of overtime, and noted the pay difference for a new hire. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Berge said there would be twenty-eight (28) people in the October 2022 new hire Fire Academy that will result in a full complement, barring any significant attrition, allowing tracking of the staffing factor.

Chair Donaldson remarked on Fire-Rescue equipment needs and explained related details.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' questions, Chief Kerr explained

details related to efforts in engaging hospital systems to address and coordinate hospital emergency departments and health care systems' actions to avoid duplicate efforts. Chief Kerr expounded on MIHP efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson continued his review of BAB FY 2023 Budget recommendations. He remarked on community feedback regarding the need for after-hour Code Officers and the BAB's proposal to add four (4) full-time employees to the Development Services Department strictly for after-hours Code Enforcement. He explained related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson explained details related to hiring full-time employees and increasing part-time employees' compensation.

Chair Donaldson remarked on the General Employees Retirement System's request for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the amount of \$13,000,000, an unfunded liability, and expounded on related details. Funding would require an increase in the ad valorem.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his support of funding the COLA and funding options.

Susan Grant, Finance Department Director, explained the three (3) COLA funding options. The two (2) options that require a unanimous vote are to either amortize it over five (5) years or seven (7) years. A shorter period would be preferable and a best practice. The alternative of funding the \$13,000,000 would not require a unanimous vote and would need to be financed in a year. Further comment and discussion ensued. Chair Donaldson noted this could be addressed over the next several months and remarked on the date to set the ad valorem rate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-2 [22-0605](#)

FY 2023 - FY 2033 Long Term Financial Plan Presentation, City staff and Stantec Consulting Services Inc. - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, provided an overview and details regarding Stantec's efforts with Staff to develop the City's ten-year forecast, which includes interactive models.

Andrew Burnham, Stantec Water Management Vice President, narrated a slide presentation entitled *Fort Lauderdale, FL FY 2023 Long-Term Financial Plan presentation (Presentation)*.

A copy the Presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Chair Donaldson said revenue is outpacing our salary growth.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Burnham confirmed a cash flow surplus in years going forward is based on a six percent (6%) assumed rate of return, which includes anticipated *Bahia Mar* revenue beginning in FY 2027. Mr. Burnham explained the statute related to the amounts allowed to remain in the fund balance relates to the Building Permit Fund.

Chair Donaldson noted that anticipated future revenues allow funding of additional Community Investment Plan (CIP) projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Burnham continued the narration of the *Presentation*.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her understanding of costs related to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and public-private partnership (P3) financing associated with replacement of the water treatment plant versus the City building the water treatment plant. Mr. Burnham noted the need to factor in inflation. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding costs and benefits moving forward with a P3 and associated operating and maintenance expenses.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom said the comprehensive agreement for the replacement of the water treatment plant is expected to be presented to the Commission following the Commission Summer Recess. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Mr. Burnham noted that no line item in the Presentation's forecasting model reflects the annual stormwater assessment for commercial properties, but that line item would be added to a subsequent presentation. The ten percent (10%) increase for residential properties would also apply to commercial properties.

Mr. Burnham continued the narration of the *Presentation*.

BUS-3 [22-0606](#)

Business Updates - FY 2023 Budget Review - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Chair Donaldson noted the next BAB Workshop is scheduled in August 2022. He remarked on the \$2,000,000 line item in the preliminary FY 2023 Budget for charitable contributions and the position of the BAB regarding the need for a vetting system. Further comment and discussion

ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the *Downtown Development Authority (DDA)* participating financially in the renovation of *Huizenga Park*. Ms. Reece will bring this topic to the BAB for discussion. A Commission presentation from *DDA* is anticipated in July 2022. City Manager Lagerbloom noted a charitable funding request from *Junior Achievement*.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained the *DDA* request is not included as a line item in the preliminary FY 2023 Budget and remarked on inflationary adjustments to budget line items and participation in the renovation of *Huizenga Park*.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the *DDA* is its own taxing district though it does not receive significant tax revenue. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson remarked on the need to ensure *Huizenga Park* would remain a park prior to the City funding renovations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.