

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 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

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 11:38 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 12:04 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Commission Members Not Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis

Budget Advisory Board Members Present: Chair Brian Donaldson, Vice Chair Jeff Lowe, William Brown, and Prabhuling Patel

Budget Advisory Board Members Not Present: Ross Cammarata, Carlos Martin (Christian) Macellari, and Michael Marshall

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0805](#)

FY 2023 Proposed Budget - Review and Recommendations,
Presented by Brian Donaldson, Budget Advisory Board Chair

Chair Donaldson explained this meeting will provide an overview of key points included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget (FY 2023 Budget) along with addressing questions. All Budget Advisory Board (BAB) members were present at its meeting on Thursday, August 11, 2022, and voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Chair Donaldson remarked on additional revenue streams and the addition of full-time employees (FTEs) in departments that will address public safety service levels. Related contracts are being negotiated.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding a ratio of public safety police personnel to the population, Chair Donaldson said the BAB felt comfortable that there was funding in place in order to support the hiring initiative and expounded on related details.

Chair Donaldson said there would be three (3) additional Fire-Rescue Department personnel for the new substation south of the Henry E.

Kinney Tunnel. The proposed FY 2023 Budget also includes \$357,000 for setting up the Mobile Integrated Health System (MIHS), a new proactive preventative effort for non-emergency 911 services. Additional funding addresses Noise Ordinance concerns.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Christopher Cooper, Development Services Department Director, explained the current levels of service for Code Officers and hiring additional Code Officers. Existing Code Officer Staff address noise issues Thursday through Sunday via flex scheduling, and the additional Staff will allow for dedicated on-call Staff and proactive routine inspections for noise and other activities that occur during the evenings and nights.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on having the goal of around-the-clock Code enforcement engagement. Mr. Cooper explained additional staffing would cover Thursday through Sunday into the early morning hours. Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked that those efforts are a good start, but the need to evaluate and address vacation rental issues.

Chair Donaldson commented on a recent report that Code-related calls were before 2:00 a.m. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson remarked on additional FTEs, which include three (3) for Parks and Recreation Department median maintenance and four (4) additional FTEs for cemetery maintenance from the cemetery fund.

Chair Donaldson explained FY 2023 efforts toward funding Commission priorities, including homeless sheltering and the Las Olas Mobility Project, and expounded on related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the timeframe for the Commission to receive a design for the Las Olas Mobility Project, Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, explained Staff is in the process of writing a memo to the City Manager that will include extensive details. The design phase timeline is estimated at fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) months. The design and construction timeline for the three (3) identified character areas is estimated at forty-two (42) to forty-eight (48) months.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding plans east of 17th Street, Mr. Rogers remarked on the other two (2) character areas of Las Olas Boulevard, the Isles and the Beach, and explained details of public outreach efforts towards determining a neighbor consensus. Mr. Rogers explained that \$2,500,000 is allocated in FY 2024 for design following the determination of a neighbor consensus.

There is a total of \$7,000,000 in the proposed budget, including \$3,000,000 in FY 2023, \$2,500,000 in FY 2024 and \$1,500,000 in FY 2025. The two (2) crosswalks east of Sospiro Canal Bridge remain on schedule and are in the design phase, which is anticipated to continue through the remainder of this calendar year. Bids are anticipated in the early Spring. Chair Donaldson remarked on additional revenue that increased budget funding for enhancements to the crosswalks east of the Sospiro Canal Bridge.

Chair Donaldson discussed the City's contribution to the reimagining of Huizenga Park. He shared three (3) caveats the BAB requested City Attorney Boileau include in the agreement with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) related to the reimagining of Huizenga Park; 1) ensuring the \$5,000,000 funding from the City over seven (7) years was equally prorated each year; 2) ensuring the \$5,000,000 never exceeds thirty-three percent (33%) of the total capital; and 3) ensuring the funding is for capital improvements associated with the area of the park is not used for the restaurant, which the City would not receive a benefit from its revenue stream. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Chair Donaldson reviewed the FY 2023 Budget allocations to non-profit organizations, including \$714,000 for reimagining Huizenga Park.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, explained details regarding FY 2023 Budget funding from the General Fund to address homelessness, which includes \$200,000 in Salvation Army funding. She explained details associated with the administration of other homelessness related funding and would provide a list of homelessness funding included in the FY 2022 Budget and the proposed FY 2023 Budget. Chair Donaldson commented on details related to homelessness funding in previous years and related challenges.

Chair Donaldson remarked on open items in the FY 2023 Budget, i.e., contractual obligations not yet finalized and the cost of planned Community Investment Plan (CIP) projects. The FY 2023 Budget includes the BAB's best estimate of those open items. He confirmed the BAB's unanimous support of the proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Chair Donaldson remarked on future budget concerns. There will be more challenges in FY 2024 due to the impact of the \$20,000,000 in federal government CARES funding received in FY 2022 and FY 2023 ending and the anticipated reduced rate of tax base increases. He noted that new construction had been a prominent revenue contributor, and significant growth requires ensuring adequate services and staffing

going forward. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question about ensuring adequate services and staffing, Chair Donaldson explained that the FY 2023 Budget includes hiring new FTEs, including an additional twenty (20) Police Officers and one (1) clinical psychologist in the Police Department, and additional FTEs in Code Enforcement, Parks and Recreation Department and Fire-Rescue Department. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding future union contract negotiations with the police and fire unions.

BUS-2 [22-0804](#)

**Review of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 -
Presented by Patrick Reilly, Interim City Auditor**

Patrick Reilly, Interim City Auditor, presented the Office of the City Auditor's review of the proposed FY 2023 Budget. He reviewed several objectives, including ensuring that the proposed budget is balanced, the revenue and expenditure estimates are reasonable and materially correct and that the proposed millage rate complies with the Florida Statutes.

Interim City Auditor Reilly discussed the methodology of the review that included various analytical procedures, review of supporting budget documentation, discussions, and inquiries with the Office of Management and Budget, Finance Department, and other department budget coordinators.

The Office of the City Auditor concluded that the FY 2023 Budget is considered balanced as presented. All known and determinable revenue and expenditures are reasonable and materially correct.

Interim City Auditor Reilly noted priorities established by the Commission Annual Action Plan, funding allocations, and the proposed millage rate complies with the Florida Statutes. There are pending issues that have not been resolved regarding the final budget, and the Office of the City Auditor cannot assure that the FY 2023 Budget thoroughly addresses all known budgetary items that may occur.

Interim City Auditor Reilly noted three (3) concerns that do not impact the Office of the City Auditor's overall conclusion but do require consideration for both the proposed FY 2023 Budget and the impact on future budget years, including:

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations with six (6) unions and the costs of salary and benefit increases will have a budget impact and should be conservatively estimated.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Chavarria provided his viewpoint regarding the status of ongoing collective bargaining negotiations and upcoming collective bargaining negotiations with the Police Department and anticipated timelines.

2. The Community Investment Plan (CIP) construction projects. Mr. Reilly noted that the recent increase in inflation would impact the cost of materials and labor throughout the coming years, impacting ongoing and new projects.
3. The implementation of Phase One of the ERP scheduled for October 2022 includes the identification of several risks that could impact the schedule and the budget. These include but are not limited to turnover, staffing shortages, data scrubbing, data testing, training, and conversion processes. Based on our assessment of the history of the ERP projects, additional costs are anticipated.

BUS-3 [22-0806](#)**FY 2022 Budget Advisory Board Work Plan**

Chair Donaldson commented on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Advisory Board Work Plan attached as an Exhibit to this Agenda item. Currently, seven (7) members are appointed to the BAB, and five (5) BAB members will be reappointed at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting. There are BAB member openings in Commission Districts.

Chair Donaldson provided a brief overview of the BAB's work in preparation for the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.

The Commission acknowledged and thanked BAB members and Staff for their efforts to develop the FY 2023 Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.