



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
August 14, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.
101 NE 3rd Avenue, Tower 101,
11th Floor Conference Room,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

Board Member	Attendance	10/2023 through 9/2024 Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Jeff Lowe, Chair	P	7	0
William Brown, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Jeremiah Carter [arrived 5:20]	P	4	0
Ross Cammarata	P	6	1
Mildred Lowe	A	2	2
Melissa Milroy	P	7	0
Prabhuling Patel	P	6	1
John Rodstrom	A	5	2

Staff

Susan Grant, Acting City Manager
 Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
 Stephen Gollan, Fire Chief
 Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager
 Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager
 Christopher Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager
 Yvette Matthews, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
 Charmaine Crawford, OMB Department and Board Liaison
 K. Cruitt, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

Communications to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Patel, that we move forward with sending the FY 2025 Proposed Budget to the City Commission as developed by the City Manager. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Budget Advisory Board was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was present.



DRAFT
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III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2024

Motion made by Ms. Milroy, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

IV. Floor Open for Neighbor Input

None

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

a) Review of Unfunded General Fund Community Investment Plan Projects

Ms. Reece provided Board members with a list, per their request. She said there was approximately \$132 million in specific projects left unfunded. She explained that the list carried over from year to year. She added that there was also another \$700 million gap for infrastructure projects.

Mr. Rogers discussed the one-way pairs project and said they were considering it to reconfigure 3rd Avenue and Andrews Avenue to be one way and adding a transit lane and/or a pedestrian lane. Funding would come from the City, the DDA and the Broward County surtax.

Mr. Brown noted how much Holiday park needed the garage and remarked on the damage to the grass because people were parking there for Panthers games. Ms. Grant said there was a \$7.5 million allocation in the Parks bond, but this was not enough. They were considering some proposed P3s that might fill that gap. Mr. Rogers stated the City Commission had already approved a design criteria package which would allow them to get cost estimates. They were still considering whether to charge for parking. Ms. Grant said they would look into ticket surcharges for The Parker and the War Memorial for funding.

Mr. Brown asked about the \$9 million funding for the Breakers Avenue/Birch Road improvements and whether that included the \$3 million they had received from the state plus federal funds. Mr. Rogers explained the total cost was approximately \$12 million. They had \$3 million in the CIP plus two appropriations. Mr. Brown asked about a time limit on the federal and state appropriations and Mr. Rogers said there was, and they were considering phasing the project or reducing the scope to be within the current funding timeline. They were also discussing getting funds from the County surtax.

b) Budget Advisory Board Recommendation to City Commission regarding the FY 2025 Proposed Budget

Chair Lowe said they had received information from Parks and Recreation regarding special event sponsorships and Beach events They had indicated the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board would review the requests and make a recommendation to

the City Commission. Chair Lowe wondered when they would not ask for approval and Ms. Reece stated if the mission of the organization was not in alignment with the City's mission. Ms. Milroy said there could also be a conflict.

Chair Lowe asked about the Beach usage fees and Mr. Rogers stated he was researching this and hoped to bring a recommendation in September.

Ms. Reece said it was possible to set up a special district or authority, as the City of Miami had done. This would require giving the land [the Beach] to another entity to run. Mr. Rogers explained that for an event, there were two parking uses: one was for the event's producers and one was for attendees. The producers paid \$30 per space, per day, per code. For the public, the maximum was either \$30 or \$35 per day. Mr. Cammarata wanted to consider raising this, and "shaving off a fee" that would not go just to the Parking Fund.

Mr. Brown wished the Board to recommend the City Attorney explore the possibility of the fee for ticketed events and incorporating the Beach Improvement District as the entity that would receive that revenue so the City would have control of those funds.

Ms. Milroy asked if the City could require an event such as Tortuga to add fees on the ticket price. Ms. Reece said they had talked about setting the licensing fee when Tortuga renewed their agreement. Mr. Rogers noted that small events would have to be set to the same fee as a big event. Ms. Grant noted that event organizers already paid for police and fire details. Mr. Brown agreed to postpone his recommendation until staff conducted more research on this.

Chair Lowe asked about State revenues for 2025 and Ms. Matthews stated there was a reduction since last year of \$488,000. Ms. Reece said they projected the Communications Service Taxes to continue to decrease as people used internet-based phones. Chair Lowe had asked about the \$2 million reduction in Transportation and Infrastructure expenditures. Ms. Reece and Ms. Matthews explained the reason.

Chair Lowe did not support the Chief Waterways Officer position and said he had discussed this with Commission members. He did not see this position "solving anything." Mr. Brown also had reservations and said the Chief of Police had asked to increase the Marine Patrol to address boaters purging their tanks at night. Mr. Cammarata wanted additional information. Ms. Milroy wondered how much one person could accomplish without staff. Ms. Grant explained that there were many City employees who were individual contributors and this person would coordinate resources from different departments. They wanted someone to coordinate resources to get things done. Ms. Reece recalled that the City Commission had expressed an interest in this position at their vision and goal setting session. Chair Lowe said this was before he had his "one-on-one" with them. Mr. Carter said he supported the position.

Motion made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Patel, that we move forward with sending the FY 2025 Proposed Budget to the City Commission as developed by the City Manager. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

c) Joint City Commission Workshop Preparation

- Tuesday, August 20, 2024 @ 11:30am – 1:00pm (*Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N Porter Riverview Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312*)

Chair Lowe asked Board members to attend. He reminded everyone that the Budget public hearings would be on September 3rd and 12th, which he encouraged members to attend. The hearings would be held at the Performing Arts Center at 5:01 PM.

VII. Communications to/from City Commission

Discussed earlier.

VIII. Board Member Comments

Mr. Brown said Commissioner Glassman would move to appoint Rich DeGirolamo, who was present, to the Board. Mr. DeGirolamo said he was currently Treasurer of the Flagler Village Board.

Ms. Reece said staff would bring the Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Special Districts memo from the City Attorney's office to the Board next month and then to the City Commission in October.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.