



Budget Advisory Board (BAB) Recommendations to City Commission

As of: April 17, 2018

Regular Scheduled BAB Meeting Date: January 17, 2018		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	Unfreezing Three (3) Positions. The Board recommends unfreezing three (3) positions in the Transportation and Mobility department; namely, Engineering Technician II, Traffic Operations Engineer, and Interagency Coordinator for the purpose of addressing traffic signalization, provided that administration establishes objective goals to be measured within two to three years. In a voice vote, the motion passed 8-1.	Three of the six positions originally included in the FY 2018 adopted budget were unfrozen. Three of the six positions will be removed from the FY 2019 budget and personnel complement.
Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: August 29, 2017		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	Support of the FY 2018 Proposed Budget. The Board has reviewed the FY 2018 Proposed Budget presented by the City Manager and recommends adoption by the City Commission.	The FY 2018 Proposed Budget was adopted by the City Commission on September 13, 2017. Vote: 4-1; Aye: Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts, Commissioner McKinzie and Mayor Seiler; Nay: 1 - Commissioner Trantalis
Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: June 29, 2017		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	Canal Dredging Special Assessment Program. The Board recommends that the City Commission consider that the City establish a canal dredging special assessment program to be established and collected through the special assessment mechanism and collected by the Property Appraiser's Office.	The City Commission was presented with the canal dredging study. Subsequently, staff presented to the Marine Advisory Board and held a public meeting to present the proposed canal dredging assessment methodology. The first reading of the ordinance establishing an assessment and the preliminary rate resolution was on July 11, 2017. After a community outreach meeting was held regarding the new canal dredging special assessment, the Commission decided to no longer pursue this funding mechanism.
Motion II	Canal Dredging Special Assessment Program Without Minimum Reserve. The Board recommends that the City Commission to institute the canal dredging special assessment program without a required minimum reserve.	The City Commission was presented with the canal dredging study. Subsequently, staff presented to the Marine Advisory Board and held a public meeting to present the proposed canal dredging assessment methodology. The first reading of the ordinance establishing an assessment and the preliminary rate resolution was on July 11, 2017.
Motion III	City Commission Compensation. The Board recommends to the City commission that the salary of the Mayor be increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000, the salary of the Commissioners be increased from \$30,000 to \$45,000, and that the Budget Advisory Board review the salaries every three years and make recommendations for adjustments to the City Commission.	The City Commission defeated the recommendation at the July 11, 2017 Commission meeting. Vote 2-3; Aye: 2 - Commissioner Trantalis and Commissioner McKinzie; Nay: 3 - Commissioner Rogers, Vice Mayor Roberts and Mayor Seiler



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Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: June 14, 2016		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	Fire Assessment Fee. Board recommends that the City Commission supports an increase in the Fire Assessment Fee to allow for 100% cost recovery in FY 2017 subject to the City's re-examination of that fee within the next year to potentially revise its methodology.	The City Commission approved a fire fee increase to 100% cost recovery. The Fire Assessment Fee methodology was presented and discussed by the Budget Advisory Board on October 19, 2016. After discussion, the Budget Advisory Board did not recommend changing the current Fire Assessment methodology.
Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: April 12, 2016		Update/Action Taken
Motion II	Infrastructure Sales Tax. Board recommends that the City Commission proceed with seeking a \$0.01 infrastructure sales tax with maximum 30-year duration, provided that the use of the funds, bonded or unbonded, not to be used to supplant or reduce ad valorem taxes.	The City Commission approved a resolution and subsequent compromise with the County to place two ½ cent surtaxes on the November 2016 ballot. Voters did not approve the surtaxes.
Motion II	Stormwater Charges. Board recommends that the City Commission consider the concept of a change in methodology for Stormwater charges from using impervious surface to a trip generation model and using a bifurcated model to allow for tidal event solutions. The Board suggests further investigation of how to determine tidal influence.	The new methodology was presented to the Commission but did not receive adequate support in the format presented. The FY 2018 budget included an increased rate utilizing the existing rate methodology.
Motion III	Sludge Plant Sale. Board recommends that the City Commission support the sale of the subject property with the caveat that the City has vetted the nuisance issue, has a secondary location for debris, and that CBRE Group and the City have conducted a proper evaluation based on the maximum development potential of the site.	<p>The site is still occupied by City staff (Meter Shop). Updated appraisal was performed.</p> <p>The City Manager is proposed to sell this site to fund \$13 Million in capital improvements as a part of the FY 2018 Budget and Community Investment Plan. The improvements include \$3 Million for an additional Emergency Medical Services Station, \$1.2 Million for the General Fund portion of the Aquatics Complex renovation, and \$8.8 Million for City-owned seawall repairs and replacements. The City received a bid for the property that was over \$1M higher than the estimated \$13M sales price included in the FY 2018 adopted budget.</p>



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Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: August 26, 2015		Update/Action Taken
Motion 1	Support. Board reviewed the FY 2016 Proposed Budget presented by the City Manager and supports adoption by the City Commission.	The FY 2016 Proposed Budget was adopted by the City Commission on September 8, 2015.
Motion II	Prioritize. The City should prioritize and reduce annual objectives pursued by each department in order to focus on doing fewer things better.	City Manager Lee Feldman discussed at the January 2016 Budget Advisory Board Meeting. The Commission Annual Action Plan initiatives for FY 2017 were adopted by the City Commission on May 16, 2017 and subsequently shared with the Budget Advisory Board.
Motion III	Outsource. Where non-core services are involved, the City should consider using third-party providers as often as possible. We believe significant savings and efficiencies can be achieved via outsourcing certain non-core services.	As of FY 2017, the Budget Manual and Budget Modification Request Forms were revised to require departments to provide information regarding outsourcing options considered when they request new positions.
Motion IV	New Positions. (a) Board recommends that the bulk of new hires be focused in areas that drive economic growth, improve expertise in proper urban planning and expand public safety. (b) For maximum efficiency, new hires should strengthen core competencies and essential services.	<p>Attracting and retaining a talented and diverse workforce of Community Builders is fundamental to meeting the Mission and Vision of the City of Fort Lauderdale as is assuring that staffing levels are adequately balanced to meet service demands within fiscal capacity. As part of the FY 2017 Adopted Budget, the City Manager proposed and the City Commission approved staffing level increases that supported the City's Vision and Strategic Plan. Supplemented staffing levels include 26 positions supporting public safety; 3 positions for maintaining and improving infrastructure; 15 positions dedicated to neighborhood services and public places enhancement; and 6 positions allocated to internal support operations.</p> <p>The net increase to the FY 2017 Personnel Complement was 50 full-time positions or a 2.0% increase over last year's amended budget of 2,453 full-time positions. Of the 50 new positions, 44 were funded from the General Fund.</p>



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Motion V	Capital Facilities. When considering the acquisition or construction of major new capital facilities, City feasibility studies should consider the use or rental of private sector facilities instead, as well as the potential for financing the capital facility through alternative mechanisms such as public/private partnerships.	City Manager Lee Feldman discussed with the BAB at its January 11, 2016 Budget Advisory Board Meeting.
Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: April 28, 2015		Update/Action Taken
Motion 1	Feasibility Study. City Manager to have a feasibility study completed, including an estimate for construction costs for a new or renovated City Hall and Police Headquarters.	In addition to the Strategic Plan created by CBRE, the City hired HDR Architecture, Inc. (HDR) to update the Police Headquarters segment of the Multi Facility Development Plan that the firm wrote in 2008. Consideration was given to updating the entire plan, which included City Hall, Police Headquarters, and other facilities; the cost estimate was \$314,000. The project was narrowed to a space needs assessment for Police Headquarters. The updated Police Headquarters Needs assessment was presented to the Budget Advisory Board on March 16, 2016. The project remains unfunded but identified as a need in the City's Community Investment Plan.
Motion II	Comprehensive Proposal for City Hall and Police Headquarters. City Manager to explore a comprehensive proposal for replacement of the City Hall, Police Headquarters, and any other necessary facilities to include funding options (i.e. sale of surplus land, public private partnerships, future repair and maintenance savings, bonds, etc.).	
Motion III	Criteria for Weighing Repairs vs. Replacement of Facilities. City Manager to develop a process and criteria for weighing the advisability of spending money on significant repairs to City facilities vs. replacing/leasing those facilities. This source of potential savings should be considered as a potential capital funding mechanism.	Based on the facility assessment report and the uncertainty of the future of City Hall and Police Headquarters, only immediate needs are being addressed for those buildings. Large repairs or replacements of facility projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis ensuring the health and safety of the community builders who work in those facilities. All other facilities have approved funding through the Community Investment Plan to make repairs based on the facility assessment report.



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Motion IV	Exploration of Operational Efficiencies. City Manager to develop a comprehensive approach to, and criteria for, whether operational efficiencies can be achieved by sharing space and other resources among City departments and agencies. This source of potential savings should be considered as a potential capital funding mechanism.	CBRE created a Real Property Market Analysis/Strategic Plan for the City that analyzed the use of City owned facilities. This document was shared with the Budget Advisory Board and presented by CBRE.
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Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: August 25, 2014		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	1% Infrastructure Sales Tax. City Commission to support and pursue the 1% sales tax to be earmarked for infrastructure.	City Commissioner Bruce Roberts and a representative from the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization attended the January Budget Advisory Board meeting for presentation and discussion.
Motion II	Infrastructure and Capital Needs. Board envisions the City will have significant infrastructure and capital needs in the immediate future. The Board anticipates these needs will be identified in the City's studies of its infrastructure needs (including the City's bridges, public facilities, and Stormwater systems), and that the City will need to raise revenue from a variety of sources. One of these sources should include increasing the millage rate.	<p>Key assessments have been completed and have been used to develop the FY 2018 – FY 2022 CIP Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walkability Plan• Bridge Master Plan• Sidewalk Assessment• Wastewater Master Plan• Stormwater Master Plan• Facilities Condition Assessment• Pavement Condition Assessment• Parks Master plan• Water and Sewer Master plan <p>In response to needs identified in the study, the City has raised its stormwater rate from \$4.10 at the time of the study to \$10.00 per month per residential unit. A stormwater rate study was conducted by Burton and Associates and the results were presented to the BAB at their February 17, 2016 meeting.</p> <p>The City Commission created an Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) to address these issues. The Budget Advisory Board appointed David Orshefsky to represent the BAB on the Task Force. Mr. Orshefsky will provide monthly updates to the Board on the ITF progress.</p>
Motion III	Financial Integrity Principles and Policy. Board recommends that the City Commission adopt the Financial Integrity Principles and Policy as presented to the Board.	The City Commission Approved the Financial Integrity Principles on September 10, 2014 (Commission Agenda Memo #14-1146).
Motion IV	Fiscal Approach of a Structurally Balanced Budget. Board is in general agreement with the City Manager's proposed budget to the City Commission.	The FY 2015 Budget was structurally balanced and adopted by the City Commission on September 10, 2014. Every subsequent budget has also been structurally balanced.



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Motion V	City Manager's Proposed Budget. Board is in general agreement with the City Manager's proposed budget to the City Commission.	The FY 2015 Proposed Budget was adopted by the City Commission on September 10, 2014.
Joint Commission Workshop Meeting Date: April 28, 2014		Update/Action Taken
Motion I	Capital Asset Replacements. City Commission to set a goal of a 2.5% annual contribution to the Capital Projects Fund.	It is the policy of the City that annual contributions to this program from the General Fund are at a minimum of 1% of the total General Fund expenses. Additional contributions may be made during the fiscal year through budget amendments as desired projects and funding sources become available. However, additional funding from the General Fund will not be permitted if the use of fund balance causes the unrestricted fund balance to fall below the minimum requirement. The City Manager may pursue alternate methods of funding these projects through federal, state, or local grants, or other innovative financial options (public/private partnerships). The City's General Fund contribution to Capital Projects in FY 2016 was \$8,785,340 or 2.8% of the FY 2016 Adopted Budget. The FY 2017 General Fund CIP was \$14.4 Million or 4.4% of operating expenses. The FY 2018 Adopted General Fund CIP was \$25,831,134 or 7.0% of operating expenses. The FY 2018 includes \$13M in one time funding received from the sale of a surplus property.
Motion II	Term Limits Extension. City Commission to consider amending the current Ordinance to extend the maximum term for BAB members from six (6) consecutive 1 year terms to nine (9) consecutive 1 year terms.	According to the City Clerk, Jeff Modarelli, the City Ordinance is currently written in a way to accommodate members who have met term limits to remain on the board until their successor is appointed.