

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

5:01 PM

Second Budget Hearing

City Commission Chambers

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

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 5:14 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Commissioner Heather Moraitis, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

Vice Mayor McKinzie arrived at 5:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis made the following Agenda announcement:

BGT-6 - Section 7 has become Section 6.

SECOND BUDGET HEARING

BGT-1 [19-0784](#) Ordinance Amending Stormwater Management Rates - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance for the Second Reading which was read by title only.

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING (Initial Vote)

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

Vice Mayor McKinzie made a motion to reconsider the BGT-1 vote and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

APPROVED a Motion to Reconsider the Item

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

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance for the Second Reading which was read by title only.

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING (Final Vote)

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

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor McKinzie

BGT-2 [19-0785](#)

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

Commissioner Moraitis commented on high residential water and sewer rates (rates). Residents with wells or separate irrigation systems have reduced rates. Residents without these options should have a reasonable water rate versus the current tiered-rate structure. Mayor Trantalis explained details related to costs, citing examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor McKinzie expounded on his perspective and the history of this item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Berg, Director of Public Works. Mr. Berg explained details related to irrigation water meters and drinking water meters, confirming both provide drinking water. The second irrigation meter avoids sewer charges.

Commissioner Moraitis recommended calculating a reasonable tiered water rate for a family of four living on an average-size lot. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor McKinzie concurred with Commissioner Moraitis' comments, recommending adjustments to regular meter tiered water rates, i.e., a higher threshold.

Commissioner Moraitis recommended the calculation of an average usage rate along with a water conservation educational campaign. Additional rates could apply when average calculated usage is exceeded. Further comment and discussion ensued on reducing water rates, providing sufficient revenue for the water treatment system, the rate increase scheduled for next year and infrastructure costs. She suggested using Return on Investment (RIO) to subsidize an adjustment to the current tiered-rate water charges.

Commissioner Sorensen recommended revisiting this topic with Stantec and requesting a remodeled tiered-rate structure. Vice Mayor McKinzie suggested not charging sewer costs on regular rate meters or the City providing residents with irrigation meters, commenting on related details.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, Mr. Berg said the new rate structure is close to the previous rate structure, explaining specific details. Some residents received a reduction and others had a slight increase.

Commissioner Glassman commented on previous Conference Meeting discussions on this topic, the consensus at that time and the need to review the numbers. Commission Moraitis noted the evolution of this topic and recommendations. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the significance of this concern. He recommended revisiting this topic to determine solutions at the next Commission Goal Setting Session.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Ordinance for the Second Reading which was read by title only.

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

Nay: 2 - Vice Mayor McKinzie and Commissioner Moraitis

BGT-3 [19-0786](#)

Ordinance Amending Chapter 28, Sections 28-255 and 28-256 of the Code of Ordinances to Amend the Wastewater Plant and Collection System Capital Expansion Fee and Potable Water Plant and Distribution Capital Expansion Fee - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Ordinance for the Second Reading which was read by title only.

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING

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

Nay: 1 - Vice Mayor McKinzie

BGT-4 [19-0742](#)

Resolutions Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District's Final Millage Rate and Final Budget - (1) Final Millage Rate (1.0000) and (2) Final Budget -

(Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis stated this item and the purpose.

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom stated this item adopts the Fiscal Year 2020 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District proposed Millage Rate and Tentative Budget.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Trantalis stated the Final Millage Rate for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District, as noted in the attached statements.

Vice Mayor McKinzie introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED Final Millage Rate

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

Mayor Trantalis stated this item and the purpose, adopting the Final FY 2020 Budget for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District.

Vice Mayor McKinzie introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED Final Budget

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

BGT-5 [19-0740](#)

Resolution Adopting the Final Five-Year Community Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 - 2024 and Appropriating Funding for Fiscal Year 2020 Community Investment Plan Projects - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Vice Mayor McKinzie requested clarification regarding the Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP) related to completion dates and funding reverting to the General Fund for other uses. City Manager Lagerbloom explained CIP funding is project-related and funds roll into

the future fiscal year for the specified project. The specified CIP Projects are listed in the backup to this item.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the Fire Assessment Fee generating additional revenue, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the amount is approximately \$3,000,000. Commissioner Moraitis suggested allocating this amount among the four (4) Districts. Further comment ensued. City Manager Lagerbloom explained related details, stating those funds have not been allocated and commenting on possible Commission options.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Fire Assessment Fee increase. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed his previous recommendation regarding the Fire Assessment Fee, expounding on related details. The Budget Advisory Board recommended the full cost recovery of Fire Assessment Fees. Further discussion ensued on utilizing excess funds.

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

ADOPTED

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

BGT-6 [19-0744](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Millage Rate (4.1193) and Debt Service Millage Rate (0.2250) for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis stated this item and the purpose.

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom stated this item adopts the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Millage Rate and Debt Service Millage Rate for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

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

Mayor Trantalis stated the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Millage Rate and Debt Service Millage Rate for the City of Fort Lauderdale, as noted in the attached statements.

Commissioner Glassman requested clarification regarding recommended changes to the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget for Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Staff as discussed in City Manager Lagerbloom's September 16, 2019 memo to the Commission. City Manager Lagerbloom said this topic would be discussed further in BGT-7. He explained the recommendation is to maintain the status quo, expounding on related details.

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

ADOPTED Final Millage Rate of 4.1193 and Debt Service Millage Rate of 0.2250

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

BGT-7 [19-0748](#)

Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Budget, Personnel Complement, and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis stated this item and the purpose. He opened the public hearing.

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom stated this item adopting the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Budget, Personnel Complement, and Return on Investment for the City of Fort Lauderdale

A copy of these statements are attached to these minutes.

Vice Mayor McKinzie noted his support of this item. He commented on his perspective, expounding on details related to the Water and Sewer Fund Return on Investment (ROI). Vice Mayor McKinzie requested input from City Auditor John Herbst. City Auditor Herbst explained details regarding the change in philosophy on specific items and additional cost saving modifications presented in the Fiscal Year 2020 balanced budget. He discussed his viewpoint on achieving cost-saving modifications.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Allison Foster, Tarpon River Civic Association. Ms. Foster explained her perspective regarding the Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) between the City and the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). She requested clarification

regarding: the organizational chart for TAM Staff; TAM Staff changes; and the FY 2020 Budget line item for the MPO ILA expense.

City Manager Lagerbloom said a final ILA with the MPO has not been achieved. For the purpose of the FY 2020 Budget, all references to the ILA have been removed. Should an ILA be realized, a budget amendment would be presented to the Commission for approval as a separate agenda item. This FY 2020 Budget reverts to maintaining the status quo for TAM staffing. Further comment and discussion ensued on budget modifications and additional details.

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

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed his memo sent to members of the Commission on September 16, 2019 regarding two changes to be incorporated into the FY 2020 Budget at this hearing. The first change returns to the current practice of the City funding the Staff costs involved in administering employee health benefits in lieu of charging these costs to the health fund. The increased cost to the City is \$902,047. The second changes reverts to the FY 2019 staffing levels for the TAM Department General Fund Budget and the removal of funds contracting with the MPO for these services.

The impact of these changes will be an increased expense to the General Fund in the amount of \$124,906 and the addition of six (6) full-time positions. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the submission of revised Exhibit 1 - Fiscal Year 2020 Final All Funds Budget and a revised Exhibit III - City of Fort Lauderdale Personnel Complement for Commission consideration. He explained the impact of these two items. The funding structure in the FY 2020 Budget does not include an ILA with the MPO or charging administrative costs for employee health benefits to the health fund, expounding on details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding MPO ILA negotiations, City Manager Lagerbloom explained legal items relating to indemnification, insurance and terminology that still need to be negotiated. Comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained the \$124,906 relates to the net removal of employees

requested and the inclusion of positions previously eliminated.

Commissioner Sorensen said he was recusing himself from voting on this item due to the employment of his spouse.

Mayor Trantalis said the total of all funds budget for FY 2020 is \$832,654,705 to fund the various operations of the City of Fort Lauderdale for FY 2020, as noted in the attached statements.

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

ADOPTED Final Budget

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

Abstain: 1 - Commissioner Sorensen

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey A. Modarelli
City Clerk