



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#21-0344

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: July 6, 2021

TITLE: Preliminary Rate Resolution for the Fiscal Year 2022 Non-Ad Valorem
Assessment for Utility Undergrounding and Authorizing a Public Hearing on
September 13, 2021 - **(Commission District 2)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a preliminary rate resolution for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment for Utility Undergrounding and set a date of Monday, September 13, 2021, at 5:01 P.M. to hold a public hearing in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 to consider public comments.

Background

On May 18, 2010, the City Commission enacted Ordinance C-10-12 creating Chapter 25, Article IV, Division 2 – Undergrounding within the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale (Code) that established a process for communities to underground overhead utilities (power, telephone, cable TV, etc.) and created a mechanism for the benefited neighborhood to pay the associated costs through a special assessment.

On November 6, 2012, the City Commission (CAM #12-2384) approved amendments to the special assessment program for the undergrounding of overhead utilities. Section 25-129, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale requires approval from at least 70 percent of signed and timely returned ballots from property owners in the assessment area and City Commission approval before a special assessment can be levied upon real properties benefitting from the undergrounding of utilities.

City staff received an application from the Las Olas Isles neighborhood to establish an underground utility line assessment. Staff worked with the utility companies on topographic surveys and designs. In accordance with the ordinance, staff issued ballots to property owners within the proposed underground utility assessment area providing an estimate of the total underground utility assessment costs and drawings depicting the location and dimensions of all associated above-grade structures. Almost 90 percent of the property owners that responded to the ballot supported establishing an underground utility line assessment.

The proposed assessment rate will be equal to the actual costs paid by the City for the undergrounding of overhead utilities within the assessment area. The proposed assessment for FY 2022 is \$468,369.84, or \$1,515.76 per Equivalent Benefit Unit (EBU), which will generate an estimated \$444,950 in revenue. This figure represents the FY 2022 estimated debt service payment for a 30-year special obligation bond with net proceeds of \$7.7 million. The annual assessment amount in future years will be calculated based upon the actual debt service payment required based upon the final debt issuance. Exhibit 1 details the assessment rate per property in the Utility Undergrounding Assessment Roll.

Section 25-131.1(a) provides that the underground utility line assessments may be collected pursuant to the uniform method provided in the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, and the City shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

The chair of the local governing board or his or her designee is required per Section 197.3632(5)(a), Florida Statutes to certify the non-ad valorem assessment roll to the Broward County Tax Collector no later than September 15, 2021.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road and bridge infrastructure

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Utility Undergrounding Assessment Roll

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Charmaine Crawford, Administrative Supervisor, Office of Management and Budget

Department Director: Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget