

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

6:00 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

City Commission Regular Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

JOHN C. HERBST Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District 1

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District 2

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District 3

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District 4

RICKELLE WILLIAMS, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

SHARI L. McCARTNEY, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sklyar Fullerton - Gateway Christian Academy

Moment of Silence

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pam Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Vice Mayor John C. Herbst and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Employee Retirements

Mayor Trantalis announced the following employee retirements and thanked them for their service to the City:

Michele Hyzy, Police Department Records Clerk - 30 years of service; Daniel Medina, Fire-Rescue Department Paramedic-Firefighter - 26 years of service; and Kevin Sumner, Fire-Rescue Department Fire Inspector II - 28 years of service.

Mayor Trantalis invited Susan Grant to the podium to recognize her retirement, presenting her with a commemorative plaque and flowers on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale. He acknowledged her six years of service, including her role as Interim City Manager during a critical transition, commended her leadership and expressed gratitude for her professionalism and contributions.

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis announced the following Agenda updates:

WALK-ON Presentation:

Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick will provide a Federal Legislative Update

Approval of MINUTES and Agenda

[26-0214](#)

Minutes for December 16, 2025, Commission Conference Meeting and December 16, 2025, Commission Regular Meeting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes and the Agenda, as amended, and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED AS AMENDED - Agenda Amended

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

PRESENTATIONS

[26-0262](#)

WALK-ON PRESENTATION - Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick - Federal Legislative Update

United States Congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick delivered a Federal Legislative Update, highlighting efforts to improve immigration and workforce policies, enhance public safety, address opioid risks, and increase housing affordability. She remarked on recent funding and legislative achievements for her constituents, acknowledged the passing of Reverend Jessie Jackson, and cited his significant contributions to civil rights.

PRESENTED

PRES- [26-0205](#)

1

Broward County Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Commissioner Richard Waltzer to make a Check Presentation in Support of the Riverwalk Upland North Project in the amount of \$1,032,636

Mayor Trantalis recognized Rich Waltzer, Broward County Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Commissioner. Commissioner Waltzer presented a check for Riverwalk Upland North Project to Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis. Commissioner Waltzer remarked on additional anticipated FIND funding.

PRESENTED

PRES- [26-0206](#)

2

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department Naloxone Presentation

Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan introduced Fire-Rescue Assistant Chief Kevin "Matt" Green, Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Danielle Turpin, and Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Stefanie Silk. Chief Gollan highlighted a significant reduction in drug overdose incidents in recent years, crediting the Fire-Rescue Department's Naloxone program. Assistant Chief Green presented a new initiative,

Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE FTL), which aims to expand Narcan access, offer treatment pathways, and reduce opioid overdose deaths.

PRESENTED

CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

Approve the Consent Agenda

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CONSENT MOTIONS

CM-1 [26-0140](#) Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with Twinsplace LLC for Friday Dining in the Streets on the south side of NE 33 Street from State Road A1A to NE 33 Avenue every Friday from February 20, 2026, through and including April 24, 2026 - (Commission District 1)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-2 [26-0141](#) Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with 3-J Hospitality, LLC for the Great American Bash 2026 on February 21, 2026, at America's Backyard, 100 SW 3 Avenue - (Commission District 2)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-3 [26-0145](#) Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closures with Wildside Foundation, Inc. for the 13th Annual 7Now Fort Lauderdale Shamrock Run 4 MILER and 7.11 MILER on Las Olas Boulevard between Andrews Avenue and SE 1 Avenue on March 15, 2026 - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-4 [26-0146](#)

Motion Approving an Outdoor Event Agreement and Request for Road Closure with Fishtales Bar & Grill, Inc. for NOBE Block Party on the north side of NE 33 Street from State Road A1A to NE 33 Avenue, every Sunday from March 8, 2026, through and including April 26, 2026, as well as March 17, 2026, and May 24, 2026 - (Commission District 1)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-5 [26-0169](#)

Motion Approving an Agreement for Medical Director Services for the Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department - Jim Roach, D.O., P.A. - \$473,515.80 (Five (5)-Year Total) - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-6 [26-0034](#)

Motion Authorizing Execution of an Agreement Between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Downtown Development Authority for the Installation and Maintenance of the Manolo Valdés' sculpture titled, "Head with Butterflies" at Huizenga Park - (Commission District 4)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CM-7 [26-0065](#)

Motion Approving the Agreement with CareerSource Broward for the Summer Youth Employment Program - Not to Exceed \$150,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CONSENT RESOLUTIONS**CR-1** [26-0047](#)

Resolution Approving the Amendment to Coordinated Opioid Recovery Program Services Agreement with Broward Behavioral Health Coalition and Authorizing Acceptance of Additional Grant

Funds in the Amount of \$375,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4)

ADOPTED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CONSENT PURCHASE

CP-1 [26-0153](#) Motion Approving the Award for Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. 548 for the Purchase of a Sewage Pump Out Vessel and Aluminum Trailer - Pump Out USA - Pump Out USA - \$158,959 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

CP-2 [26-0136](#) Motion Approving Agreement for Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. 530-1-Fort Lauderdale Executive (FXE) Airport Aviation Equipment & Service (AES) Facility Apron Pavement Rehabilitation - Weekley Asphalt Paving, Inc. - \$389,193.90 - (Commission District 1)

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

MOTIONS

M-1 [26-0040](#) Motion Approving the Fiscal Year 2027 City Commission Priorities - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding updates to the Commission's 2027 Priorities, City Manager Williams outlined two (2) revisions. The first relates to the scope of incentives for business amenity services in neighborhoods, such as grocery stores and dry cleaners, that was expanded to apply citywide.

The second revision relates to the Federal Courthouse and its potential use as a museum to be incorporated into its potential redevelopment. City Manager Williams said staff is awaiting feedback from the United States General Service Administration regarding acceptable use categories. She said that approval of certain uses could make the City eligible for enhanced financial terms, potentially including up to a one hundred percent (100%) discount on acquisition of the federal courthouse.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

Mayor Trantalis requested in the future that the Conference Meeting Agenda list Commissioner's Reports and the Mayor's Report earlier in the meeting, following Communications to the Commission. City Manager Williams confirmed.

M-2 [26-0203](#)

Motion Approving an Amendment to the MicroTransit Pilot Services Agreement with Circuit Transit Inc. to Transition Services from the Piggyback Pompano Beach Agreement No. P-29-20 to the City's Agreement pursuant to RFP No. 161 for Downtown and Galt Mile Service Areas - \$1,157,165 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on the success of MicroTransit in the City.

Mayor Trantalis raised concerns regarding Broward County's plan to invest in new buses, questioning the efficiency of such spending given that many buses reportedly operate with low ridership. He suggested that Broward County consider alternative, more flexible transit solutions such as Circuit MicroTransit that is a more cost effective and efficient way to serve residents' transportation needs.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this Agenda item and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 [26-0002](#)

City Clerk Annual Performance Review - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution for a three percent (3%) merit salary increase for City Clerk David Soloman.

ADOPTED - 3% Merit Salary Increase

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 [26-0172](#) Public Hearing - Quasi-Judicial De Novo Hearing - Consideration of a Motion to Reject, Approve, or Amend the Decision of the Board of Adjustment Denying Variance Requests - Case # PLN-BOA-24040001 - 2436 Cat Cay Lane - (Commission District 4)

Anyone wishing to speak must be sworn in. The Commission will announce any site visits, communications or expert opinions received and make them part of the record.

Two or more members of the Board of Adjustment may be present and participate in the discussion of this item at this meeting.

Each Commission Member disclosed verbal communications, written communications, site visits, and expert opinions received.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney McCartney explained details of what the Commission Members must determine relative to this appeal.

Mayor Trantalis opened the public hearing.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ellyn Bogdanoff, Esq., Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., One East Broward Boulevard on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Bogdanoff narrated a presentation entitled *Appeal to the City of Fort Lauderdale Commission February 17, 2026 Agenda Item PH-126-0172 From the Board of Adjustment Tacher PLN-BOA-24040001*.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these Meeting Minutes.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Bogdanoff clarified that the shed shown in the upper left-hand corner of the presentation, located on the water side, is rectangular and matches the structure and size originally installed in 2013. She explained that any apparent discrepancy results from the presentation's depiction, not an actual enlargement.

Vice Mayor Herbst questioned inconsistencies in the permit application for the pre-fabricated shed, noting that the document listed the structure as a 10'x10' unit, while evidence suggested it was actually a 10'x20' shed. Vice Mayor Herbst pointed out that the application appeared to be completed in consistent handwriting, raising doubts about whether the size discrepancy was an error or misrepresentation at the time of submission.

Ms. Bogdanoff remarked on the discrepancy but emphasized that the shed had been permitted, inspected, and approved by the City at the time of installation under a prior owner. The current homeowners unknowingly inherited this issue and would have taken corrective action earlier had it been identified during the purchase process. Efforts to correct the issue were complicated by the need for variances, which were not initially obtained by the previous property owner. The current property owners are now facing significant financial hardship due to significant Code Enforcement fines.

Ms. Bogdanoff requested approval of the requested four (4) variances to bring the property into compliance and asked that the accrued fines be waived. In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's question, Ms. Bogdanoff said that there has been no neighborhood opposition and that adjacent property owners have been supportive.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Hudson C. Gill, Esq., Johnson, Anselmo, Murdock, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A., on behalf of the City's Board of Adjustment (BOA). In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney McCartney confirmed the City pays for the BOA's outside counsel.

Mr. Gill clarified the Commission's role and the applicable legal standard for evaluating the variance requests. He explained that the burden of proof rests on the applicant, who must demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that a qualifying hardship exists under the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Gill explained that the Commission should review the evidence to determine if the applicant meets all required criteria. These include whether special conditions affect the property and prevent reasonable use, whether these conditions are unique to the property, whether strict application of the ULDR would deprive the applicant of rights enjoyed by others in the district, whether the hardship was not self-created or due to ignorance of the code, and whether the requested variance is the minimum necessary and aligns with the intent of the ULDR. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted there were no members of the BOA present to contradict the facts presented by Ms. Bogdanoff. City Attorney McCartney explained the Commission cannot waive or modify fines. Only the Special Magistrate can waive and modify fines, but the Commission can make a related recommendation.

There being no one else 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, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst, and Mayor Trantalis.

Mayor Trantalis said that the Commission, acting in a quasi-judicial capacity, must determine whether the applicant has satisfied all four (4) required hardship criteria based on the evidence presented, including submitted documents and photographs, and that their decision must be grounded strictly in that evidence.

Commissioner Sorensen said a City permitting error was a key factor that created a unique hardship and moved to approve all four (4) variances, explaining related details, and said that the applicant met the ULDR criteria.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question about including a recommendation to waive fines in the motion to approve the variances, Commissioner Sorensen suggested addressing fines separately.

In response to Vice Mayor Herbst's questions about input from adjacent neighbors, Ms. Bogdanoff confirmed that one (1) nearby resident had expressed support for the applicant at a prior BOA hearing, explained related information, and said that no written objections or complaints had been filed. Ms. Bogdanoff also noted that a neighboring property had recently changed ownership, and the new owners had not raised concerns.

City Attorney McCartney clarified that if the Commission intended to make any recommendation regarding fines, it would need to be explicitly included in a motion.

Vice Mayor Herbst discussed waiving the accrued fines in conjunction with the variance approval and explained that, while fines can sometimes be reduced or waived, typically "hard costs" associated with enforcement activities such as inspections and staff time are not waived. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Vice Mayor Herbst's comment that hard costs incurred by the City should not be waived. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve the four (4) variances, reject the decision of the Board of Adjustment, and

recommended sending this matter back to the Special Magistrate to waive the Code Enforcement fines minus the associated hard costs, and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED - Motion to approve the four variances, reject the decision of the Board of Adjustment, and recommending to send back to the Special Magistrate and waive the fines minus the hard costs

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

ORDINANCE SECOND READING

OSR-1 [26-0087](#) Second Reading - Ordinance Amending the City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan; Future Land Use Element, Conservation Element, Sanitary Sewer, Water and Stormwater Element, and Capital Improvement Element to Incorporate by Reference the Ten (10)-Year Water Supply Facility Work Plan 2026 - Case No. UDP-S25004 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

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

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

OSR-2 [26-0163](#) Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Division 8 of Article VII, Chapter 2, to Establish an Infrastructure Advisory Board - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Ordinance on Second Reading which was read by title only.

ADOPTED ON SECOND READING

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

RESOLUTIONS CONTINUED

R-2 [26-0209](#) Appointment of Board and Committee Members - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Clerk David Soloman read the names of nominees for appointment and/or reappointment to Advisory Boards and Committees at the March 3, 2026, Commission Regular Meeting.

City Clerk Soloman read the names of Board and Committee appointments and/or reappointments for Agenda item R-1 into the record.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

ADOPTED

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Sorensen, Vice Mayor Herbst and Mayor Trantalis

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

David R. Soloman
City Clerk