



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED**

**BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>th</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 33301  
FEBRUARY 19, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10/2019 through 9/2020 Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Brian Donaldson, Chair	P	4	0
Johnnie Smith, Vice Chair	P	3	1
Ross Cammarata	P	4	0
Jeff Lowe	P	4	0
Michael Marshall	A	3	1
Robert McGrath	P	4	0
Prabhuling Patel	P	4	0
Adam Sabin	P	4	0
Christopher Williams	P	4	0
John Xanthos [arrived 6:30]	P	3	1

Also Attending

Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager (by phone)  
Laura Reece, Budget Director  
Susan Grant, Finance Director  
Charmaine Crawford, Budget Department and Board Liaison  
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

Communications to the City Commission

None

Purpose: To Provide the City with input regarding the taxpayers’ perspective in the development of the annual operating budget; to review projections and estimates from the City Manager regarding revenues and expenditures for upcoming fiscal year; to advise the City Commission on service levels and priorities and fiscal solvency; and to submit recommendations to the City Commission no later than August 15 of each year regarding a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Budget Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**A. November 20, 2019**

**Motion** made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the minutes of the Board's 11/20/19 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**B. January 22, 2020**

**Motion** made by Mr. Cammarata, seconded by Mr. Patel, to approve the minutes of the Board's 1/22/20 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Floor Open for Neighbor Input**

None

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

**A. 2020 City Commission Priorities**

Board members had received the City Commission's priorities list:

**Top 5 Priorities**

Homelessness and Housing Opportunities

Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan Implementation

Transportation and Traffic

Waterway Quality

**Priorities**

Streetscape and Tree Enhancements

Uptown Master Plan

Airport Workforce Training Facility

Safety

Smart Growth

Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Build-Out

**Management In Progress**

Sidewalk Policy

Breakers/Birch Streetscape Project

Laudertrail Development

Joint Government Complex

Las Olas Corridor Mobility Working Group

Enforcement

Communication

Chair Donaldson said he had attended the priority meeting with the City Commission and City Staff. He stated there had been \$1 million in the prior year's budget to address homelessness issues, \$800,000 of which had been provided to United Way to administer their homeless initiatives. The City Commission had discussed how to quantify a return on their investment, and whether they should administer the program internally instead of using United Way. Ms. Reece said United Way had given a presentation and provided a report to the City Commission the previous day.

Chair Donaldson said Commissioner Sorensen explained during the priority meeting that United way used the funds for many programs, and combined contributions from many sources. Chair Donaldson stated the BAB should identify how to come up with the funds, not ideas for how to spend them.

Ms. Reece stated the City had a participation agreement with United Way, as part of a consortium of the City, the County and businesses. The agreement specified reimbursement amounts for specific, actual services provided.

Regarding Infrastructure, Chair Donaldson suggested the City educate the public regarding how the water and sewer infrastructure was funded and what the City's plan was for addressing their water/sewer infrastructure problems. Chair Donaldson wanted to know the City's plans for non-water/sewer infrastructure issues. The Commission had authorized the Infrastructure Task Force Committee to continue through 2022 and asked them to look at whether it would be reasonable to have a moratorium on building, which would affect the City's property tax revenue, and to look at non-water/sewer infrastructure.

Mr. Cammarata asked who would educate the public about these issues and Chair Donaldson said the City's website could be used, as well getting information out through the civic associations.

Regarding Transportation and Traffic, Mr. Cammarata asked when the City would discuss the fees charged to scooter companies and Ms. Reece said that had been on

the previous evening's City Commission agenda. She explained that staff and the Department of Transportation and Mobility calculated the costs to administer the programs. The fees were meant to recoup the City's costs, not to make a profit.

Regarding waterway quality, Chair Donaldson said there had been discussion about the City testing the water quality instead of leaving it to the County and also creating public waste disposal locations for boats. They had begun to think about resiliency issues, such as raising the sea walls.

Regarding the new Police Station, Chair Donaldson stated the City Commission had discussed the possibility of locating the new complex on the current City Hall site. Building there and using the existing parking garage would save \$30 million. They would need to identify somewhere to house City Hall offices in the interim.

#### **D. June 17, 2020 Regular Meeting – Reschedule to an earlier date**

Chair Donaldson explained the process for the Departmental Budget Review Sessions, which would be held May 13 through May 20.

Chair Donaldson stated if they completed the presentations, they may not need a regular Board meeting in May. They also had a joint meeting with the City Commission on June 16, and they must meet prior to that joint meeting to decide on recommendations. He therefore wanted to move their June meeting to June 10.

**Motion** made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Xanthos, to move the Board's regular June meeting date from June 17 to June 10. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

#### **C. May 27, 2020 Regular Meeting – To be confirmed**

Chair Donaldson recommended keeping the May 27 meeting date to allow them time to draft their recommendation to the City Commission regarding the ad valorem.

The Board agreed to meet on May 21.

**Motion** made by Mr. Sabin, seconded by Mr. Lowe, to schedule the Board's regular May meeting for May 21. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Joint City Commission Workshop Preparation**

- o Tuesday, March 3, 2020; 11:30am – 1:00pm

For the benefit of Board members who had not participated in the process before, Chair Donaldson discussed the previous year's March workshop with the City Commission.

Ms. Reece noted that the Board was responsible to give the citizens' perspective to the City Commission.

Chair Donaldson asked Board members what they wanted the City Commission's feedback on.

Mr. Smith wanted to know what the City Commission wished them to look for during the departmental reviews, and how detailed they should be.

Mr. Patel wanted to know if the Commission wanted the Board to consider staff reductions if they could not balance the budget by "going through the process" or increasing the millage rate.

Mr. Xanthos wanted to know the City Commission's budget priorities.

Mr. Lowe wanted more information on the Commission's new budget priorities for this year, compared to the priorities that were carrying over from previous years.

Chair Donaldson wanted to know if the Commission had an expectation of dollar amounts assigned to their priorities, and which priorities would receive less if the revenue expectations were not met.

Mr. Williams thought the Board could also consider making a recommendation that the City Commission was not currently discussing, based on Board members' individual experiences. Chair Donaldson recalled that the previous year, the BAB members had brought up some new cost saving measures for the City to consider.

Mr. Cammarata felt the biggest problem was the City's infrastructure. He wanted the City to increase taxes to repair the infrastructure instead of borrowing. Then, the City could create a discrete reserve fund to save money to repair/replace the water/sewer pipes again in 50 years. Chair Donaldson noted that they could not recoup the costs through tax revenue from water/sewer users outside the City. Ms. Reece explained that water/sewer rates must be based on the results of a rate study that calculated the cost of the service. The City could not charge users different rates over and above the 25% surcharge. Chair Donaldson noted that this was a policy question, which was not within the BAB's purview.

Chair Donaldson said the City already had a plan for water and sewer infrastructure repair/replacement. The Board should be thinking about the next area(s) of infrastructure they needed to address.

Mr. Sabin wanted more specificity regarding the Commission's priorities.

Chair Donaldson wanted to know the Commission's expectations and then the BAB could determine if the CIP or services would be compromised and whether to recommend an increase in the ad valorem, and how much. He wanted the Commission to be aware that the BAB may come to them in June recommending an increase in the ad valorem because of the Commission's initiatives or because BAB members, as taxpayers, did not want a decrease in specific services.

Chair Donaldson recalled that last year, the BAB had recommended full recovery from the Fire Assessment and the City had agreed, and they now had \$4.8 million more.

Mr. Smith said he thought the March meeting with the Commission should provide the Board direction about what they wanted them to look for in the May departmental presentations.

Chair Donaldson stated the Board would be open to hearing new ideas for service enhancements from department heads.

Mr. Lagerbloom said he looked forward to discussing the City's position regarding budget requests and funding. He was unsure if the City Commission would entertain an ad valorem increase this year.

Mr. Patel asked where the funds used to address the recent water/sewer main breaks had come from. Mr. Lagerbloom stated they came from several sources, including reprioritizing the bond funds and emergency reserves. He anticipated reporting on the repairs and recommending how to pay for them at a March Commission meeting.

Chair Donaldson wanted Mr. Lagerbloom to inform the Board if they should recommend an ad valorem increase to go toward the emergency reserves that were being used for emergency water/sewer repairs. Mr. Lagerbloom wanted to discuss these options with the Board in person.

Ms. Reece said she and Mr. Lagerbloom had been asked to look into ending ROI in FY 2020. Mr. Lagerbloom stated he and Ms. Reece were considering a couple of creative strategies. After they considered the options, they would make a presentation to the BAB and the City Commission.

Ms. Reece said they were preparing an item for the City Commission on the additional emergency expenditures and addressing ROI this year.

Mr. McGrath stated they must obtain information before making recommendations. He said one option was to create a city in which property values continued to grow, allowing them to lower ad valorem rates, but he admitted this was "pie in the sky." Regarding the presentations, he wanted to be able to compare departments to each other and district

to district. He wanted to be sure the reports were all consistent. Ms. Reece said the presentations would include some line item detail.

Mr. McGrath said growth alone was not the only way to create a city that had increasing property values. He said equitability could help create such municipalities.

**VII. Communications to/from the City Commission**

None

**VIII. Board Member Comments**

None

**IX. Adjourn**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.



Priorities Established by City Commission - January 31, 2020

<b>DRAFT 2020 City Commission Priorities</b>
<b>Top Priorities</b>
Homelessness and Housing Opportunities*
Infrastructure*
Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan Implementation
Transportation and Traffic
Waterway Quality*
Resiliency
<b>Priorities</b>
Streetscape and Tree Enhancements*
Uptown Master Plan
Airport Workforce Training Facility
Safety
Smart Growth
Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Build-out
<b>Management In Progress</b>
Sidewalk Policy*
Breakers-Birch Streetscape Project*
LauderTrail Development*
Joint Government Complex*
Las Olas Corridor Mobility Working Group*
Enforcement
Communication

\* Initiatives related to FY 2020 Commission Annual Action Plan