



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED**  
**BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 10, 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	7	0
Johnnie Smith, Vice Chair	P	5	2
Ross Cammarata	P	7	0
Jeff Lowe	P	7	0
Michael Marshall	P	6	1
Robert McGrath	A	5	2
Prabhuling Patel	P	7	0
Adam Sabin	P	7	0
Christopher Williams	P	7	0
John Xanthos	A	5	2

**Also Attending**

- Chris Lagerbloom, City Manager
- Laura Reece, Director, Office of Management and Budget
- John Herbst, City Auditor
- Susan Grant, Finance Director
- Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Rescue Chief
- Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director
- Dennis Ulmer, Resident
- 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 6:01 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes  
A. July 15, 2020**

**Motion** made by Mr. Patel, seconded by Mr. Marshall, to approve the minutes of the Board's July 15, 2020 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Floor Open for Neighbor Input**

Dennis Ulmer, resident, opposed any changes in the current Police budget, such as redistributing funds to other agencies.

**V. Old Business**

Chair Donaldson asked Ms. Reece if there had been any changes to the budget since the Board's last meeting. Ms. Reece reported they had received the revenue estimates from the State on July 31 and they were \$2.8 million below budget. There were, however, offsetting savings with the refinancing of the Pension Obligation Bonds and with the County funding some maintenance projects with Transportation Surtax funds, which would keep the City in the black.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Director, said the County had prioritized the Transportation Surtax projects and the next phase was committing to Interlocal agreements with scope, terms and conditions. They should have more information in the next 30 days. The City had been approved for nine projects totaling \$9.5 million for cycle 1.

**VI. New Business  
A. Discuss Recommendations of the FY 2021 Proposed Not-For-Profit Grant  
Organization Funding and Review Process**

Staff had provided a comparison of 2020 and 2021 grants.

Mr. Williams asked if the tenant-based rental assistance had been through United Way last year. Ms. Reece said they had been asked to separate these program costs to

directly contract with HOPE South Florida. United Way helped with temporary rapid re-housing, not rental assistance.

Mr. Williams applauded the addition of Stranahan House for \$100,000.

In September, Chair Donaldson wanted the Board to consider the process for the next grant cycle.

Mr. Cammarata felt they must have a consistent, documented process in place. He wanted to look at the processes used by other, larger municipalities. He suggested a committee to vet the requests the City received.

Mr. Lowe had discussed this with staff and members of the City Commission. He had learned that some of the organizations had contracts that were ongoing for a number of years and wondered if the City must allow the contracts to run out.

Chair Donaldson asked Ms. Reece to put this on the Board's September agenda. He suggested the amount of money the City would donate could be a percentage of the total budget. Mr. Lagerbloom admitted that in the past, this had been a "political popularity contest" without a formal process. He felt some organizations had come to rely too much on the City's contribution. Ms. Reece stated it was easier to create a pool with a specific dollar amount instead of a percentage of the budget.

Going forward, Mr. Lagerbloom said they would need to discuss which large events, that were now paid for with tourism dollars, were most important to the City. They should determine if there was enough community value to encourage the City to invest in them.

Mr. Patel asked if the City was prohibited from charging the Tortuga Festival a percentage of ticket sales. Mr. Lagerbloom stated the organizers had stayed away from this before, but in the future, Mr. Lagerbloom thought they may be able to discuss it.

Mr. Herbst pointed out that if they charged Tortuga, they must charge everyone who wanted to hold an event on the beach; there must be equal treatment.

#### **B. Budget Advisory Board Recommendation to City Commission regarding the FY 2021 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Lagerbloom said postponing FRS had generated the most pushback but they were still negotiating. The unions had indicated they would be interested in other one-time cost reductions to offset the cost of moving this forward. They had taken the position that they would not sign the MOU, which could lead to an impasse. This represented a \$750,000 difference. Other than that, there were no significant changes.

Ms. Grant explained that the contract stipulated that the teamsters and federation members would go into FRS as of October 1. The additional \$750,000 was due to the entrance of part-time employees and an increase in contribution rates. They were now looking at implementation as of January 1, 2021. Ms. Grant pointed out that the City would save \$1.5 million from the refinancing of the pension obligation bonds.

Mr. Cammarata asked about the \$750,000 yearly additional cost to the City and Ms. Grant stated this was the difference between the City's current 401k contribution of 9% to the FRS contribution of 10% plus the addition of part-time members. Ms. Reece stated the additional \$750,000 represented senior management, part-timers and the City Commission.

Mr. Cammarata had question Chief Kerr's request for additional personnel and asked her if she still felt this was necessary. Chief Kerr said the additional 14 staff would allow them to maintain current service levels and would help reduce overtime. Chief Kerr explained that it would take until March of next year to get anyone into the field.

Board members thanked staff for their attention to detail and thoroughness in drafting the budget.

Mr. Marshall said in the coming year, he would like to hear more from departments about how their budgets reflected the policies and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and whether they felt there was proper inter-government coordination.

Mr. Sabin felt that the Board had not affected policy but tried to make sure things made sense from a financial standpoint. He wanted to hear from the Commissioners regarding their priorities for the non-profit grants.

Chair Donaldson asked Ms. Reece to provide a presentation to the Board at the September meeting describing how other municipalities handled non-profit donations.

Mr. Herbst stated his office performed a review of the budget every year to ensure accuracy. They also considered if the assumptions were reasonable and looked for comprehensiveness. He anticipated that this review would be available later in the week and would be provided to the Board.

Chair Donaldson asked Mr. Herbst to provide this report prior to the Board's August meetings so the Board had that information before making a recommendation to the City Commission. Mr. Herbst explained that they had to wait for the City Manager to present the budget to the City Commission and the current time frame was extremely tight. Chair Donaldson suggested they could coordinate the timing of the Board's August meeting to allow them to have access to the report prior to their August meeting.

**Motion** made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Patel to approve the budget as currently proposed. In a roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**C. Joint City Commission Workshop Preparation**

i. **Tuesday, August 18, 2020; 11:30am – 1:00pm**

Chair Donaldson asked Board members for input regarding the meeting. Mr. Patel wanted to bring up the possibility of increasing the millage rate next year. He was concerned about infrastructure issues.

**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 7:19 p.m.

**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**Not-For-Profit Grant Participation Agreement Funding**  
As of October 1, 2020

Organization	FY 2020 Amended	FY 2021 Proposed	The Purpose of City's Contribution is to:
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County	\$ 46,568	\$ 46,568	Provide services benefitting an estimated 125 homebound frail elders living in Fort Lauderdale and approximately 25,000 congregate meals to about 150 Fort Lauderdale residents.
Broward League of Cities Installation Dinner	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	Raising awareness and resolving issues facing Broward County's 31 cities and municipalities at the local, county, and state level.
Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	\$ 16,552	\$ 16,552	Provides advocacy for Federal and State Lobbying efforts in Washington, DC and Tallahassee, FL that results in additional funding for transportation projects.
Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.	\$ 41,249	\$ 41,249	Provide subsidized child care for approximately 2,500 Fort Lauderdale children of eligible low income families.
Hope South Florida, Inc.	\$ -	\$ 40,000	Provide intensive case management services and linkages to additional resources to minimize the future risk of homelessness for program participants receiving assistance through the HOME Investments Partnerships Program's tenant based rental assistance service.
First Call for Help of Broward, Inc.	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Provide approximately 19,500 contacts in Fort Lauderdale, including supportive listening, crisis intervention, and information and referrals that help residents to access social program services.
Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc.	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	To contribute in the educational, cultural and historical life of the City of Fort Lauderdale and to serve as an important resource as a heritage tourist destination within the Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment District.
Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival, Inc.	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	Promote and host the Annual Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Parade & Festival of community organizations, support the associated volunteer presentation, and provide education on Irish culture for the benefit of the community.
Junior Achievement of South Florida	\$ 33,900	\$ 33,900	The requested funds of \$33,900 (\$10 per student) will provide financial and entrepreneurial learning for every public school 5th and 8th grade student in Fort Lauderdale served annually through JA BizTown and JA Finance Park.
Nova Southeastern University for NSU Museum of Arts	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	Provide innovative art exhibitions and free supplemental cultural, educational and enrichment programs for Fort Lauderdale neighbors and stimulate tourism in Fort Lauderdale.
Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, Inc.	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	Responsible for the programming, beautification, and revitalization of Riverwalk Park and special events such as the annual Light Up Lauderdale and the Day of the Dead celebration.
	\$ 50,400	\$ 50,400	Provide space in the monthly <i>Go Riverwalk</i> Magazine to communicate City information.
Sister Cities International	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	Creates relationships based on cultural and educational exchanges, economic partnerships, and humanitarian assistance.
Summer Youth Employment Program	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	Provide Broward County's young men and women with a summer-long adventure with lessons about how to obtain a job, how to keep a job, and how to turn any job into an investment of time and effort for the future.
The Stranahan House, Inc.	\$ -	\$ 100,000	To help residents and visitors of all ages learn about the history of the region, thus furthering the social, cultural and historic viability with the City of Fort Lauderdale.
United Way of Broward County, Inc.	\$ 750,000	\$ 710,000	Find solutions and strategies to help homeless people within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale.
Winterfest, Inc.	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	Administer the Annual Boat Parade and to build a festival and full complement of events around the Greater Fort Lauderdale area.
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$ 2,077,669</b>	<b>\$ 2,177,669</b>	