



# LauderBriefs

## Updates from City Commission Meetings

*The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings](http://fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings).*

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. The video is available at [youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale](https://youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale), and the vote summary will be available later this week at [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP – BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD**

#### **Commission Continues Discussion of FY 2025 Proposed Budget**

The City Commission was provided with updates about key changes to the FY 2025 proposed budget since it was first submitted to the Commission on July 2. Based on updated Broward County Property Appraiser estimates, the City will receive \$1.6 million in additional ad valorem revenue. Additional expenditures included \$1.25 million in infrastructure enhancements, \$540,000 in transfers and operating adjustments, and \$375,000 in community program and staffing adjustments. The Commission gave staff direction to incorporate in the FY 2025 budget a cost-of-living adjustment for the retirees of the General Employee Retirement System. To maintain a structurally balanced budget, the City will use fund balance over a seven-year period to offset this expense. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3Mb9MNP](http://ftlcity.info/3Mb9MNP).

### **CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**

#### **Commission Hears Update on the Status of the City Hall Project**

The City Commission was updated about efforts related to the development of a new City Hall, as well as the status of the existing City Hall demolition effort. To this point, the project team has held five public workshops, the Infrastructure Task Force and the Urban Land Institute provided their recommendations, and the Commission offered its initial feedback. Outreach to municipalities with similar ongoing or upcoming City Hall projects and initial planning to determine the space of the new building is underway, along with funding options and budget planning. In the coming months, an owner's representative solicitation will be issued to provide subject matter expertise, evaluate proposal responses, and oversee construction management and permitting, among other items. The project team also will begin developing a design criteria package. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/46UqOZC](http://ftlcity.info/46UqOZC).

### **Commission Briefed on the Timeline of the Search for a New City Manager**

The City Commission was provided with an update on the search for a new City Manager and reviewed the tentative recruitment plan timeline. A City Manager Search Committee has been formed and an initial meeting was held. The City Manager position is expected to be posted nationally by November, and the Search Committee will review a field of candidates narrowed down by the search firm. A final list of candidates is expected to be brought before the new Commission in January 2025, with interviews to follow. The Commission is expected to select a candidate in February 2025. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3XajPZa](http://ftlcity.info/3XajPZa).

### **Commission Discusses Options to Address Upcoming Prohibition on Public Camping**

The City Commission reviewed recommendations for how the City can comply with Florida House Bill 1365, which prohibits public camping. Under the law, a Broward County resident, business owner, or the Attorney General can bring civil action against the City if any individual regularly camps or sleeps on public property overnight. As of January 1, 2025, civil action can be filed if the applicant provides written notice to the City's governing board and no reasonable action is taken to cure the violation within five business days. If a violation of the camping ban is identified, the person will be contacted by law enforcement. If the individual does not voluntarily leave but is willing to enter a shelter, they will be transported to that location. In some circumstances, the individual will be transported to a hospital, mental health facility, or addiction treatment center. If the individual is unwilling to leave, they will be given notice to appear in Community Court or possibly arrested on a misdemeanor charge. The Commission agreed that staff should draft an ordinance that prohibits public camping day or night. The ordinance will be brought to the Commission in September so it can be reviewed and adopted before HB 1365 goes into effect on October 1. Once established, staff will begin outreach to the community, including the unsheltered population. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3WLq7a](http://ftlcity.info/3WLq7a).

## **CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

### **Commission Approves \$83,533 Grant Agreement for Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety**

The City Commission approved a subgrant agreement with the University of North Florida Training and Services Institute to assist the Fort Lauderdale Police Department in conducting a public awareness and enforcement campaign related to pedestrian and bicycle safety. The campaign aims to remind and educate pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists of safe behaviors. The total amount of the Florida Department of Transportation grant is \$83,533. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/4dQVQnE](http://ftlcity.info/4dQVQnE).

### **Commission Accepts EPA Grant for the Middle River Water Quality Improvement Project**

The City Commission accepted a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for \$300,000 for participation in the Middle River Water Quality Improvement Project. The City previously approved an interlocal agreement with the City of Wilton Manors and the City of Oakland Park to apply for the EPA Community Grant. The funds will be used for project planning and design to provide drinking water, wastewater, stormwater infrastructure, and water quality protection. The Dolphin Isles B-14 Sewer Basin Rehabilitation Project will rehabilitate the sewer basin to reduce the inflow and infiltration of groundwater into our sanitary system. This will

ultimately reduce the risk of discharges and subsequent required wastewater treatment during high tide and rainfall events. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/46RzWOA](https://ftlcity.info/46RzWOA).

### **Commission Approves Grant Submittal for South Middle River Mobility Project**

The City Commission authorized the submittal of a grant application to the Broward MPO Complete Streets and other Local Initiatives Program for the South Middle River Mobility Project for up to \$4 million. The competitive grant funds medium-sized projects with construction costs between \$1 million and \$4 million. Improvements proposed for the South Middle River project include the addition of sidewalks and traffic calming through raised intersections, intersection realignments, and asphalt speed humps to improve the safety of all. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/46PTW4j](https://ftlcity.info/46PTW4j).

### **Commission Signs Off on Agreement for Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls**

The City Commission approved an initial three-year agreement for waterway cleaning and algal controls for \$3.7 million, with an option to authorize two additional one-year agreements for a potential total contract amount of \$6.2 million. Regular maintenance and cleaning of the City's 165 miles of navigable waterways is critical for the health of these waterways, which include lakes, canals, and the Intracoastal Waterway. Specialized equipment is required for the removal of debris such as trees, dock pilings, animal carcasses, and more that can be floating, submerged, stuck under docks, or intertwined with vegetation. In addition to debris removal, the contract contains provisions to request chemical and mechanical controls, if needed, to address safety and health needs of the waterway in the event of an algal bloom or waterway spills. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3X5YvnH](https://ftlcity.info/3X5YvnH).

### **Commission Approves \$2.4 Million Agreement for Tarpon River Sewer Basin Rehab Project**

The City Commission approved an agreement for the Tarpon River A-11 Sewer Basin Rehabilitation Project Phase 2 with Inliner Solutions, LLC for \$2.4 million. The project includes the lining of the mainline gravity sewers and lateral piping, clean-out installation, root and grease removal, sectional liners, and pre- and post-closed circuit television surveys. For details, visit <https://ftlcity.info/4cx9DhK>.

### **Commission Approves Final Ranking for Critical Stormwater Infrastructure Services**

The City Commission approved the final ranking of firms, negotiated fee schedule, and agreement for professional civil engineering services related to the Critical Stormwater Infrastructure Condition Assessment Program for an initial five-year term of \$2.8 million. There's an option to approve an additional two two-year terms for a potential total contract amount of \$5.1 million. Services include construction engineering inspection and program management of contractors who will be conducting stormwater cleaning, maintenance, dewatering, and by-pass stormwater operations in City rights-of-way, as well as other professional consulting services. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3X8wrjs](https://ftlcity.info/3X8wrjs).

### **Commission Approves the Purchase of a Property to Be Turned into a Park**

The City Commission approved the purchase and sale agreement for property located at 2201 NE 19th Street with plans to develop the area as a park, which will be funded by the Parks Bond. The purchase amount is not to exceed \$1.74 million. The property, which is

approximately 19,287 square feet, includes a rectangular-shaped lot with a building that will be demolished by the seller before closing. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3XabQLM](http://ftlcity.info/3XabQLM).

### **Commission Advances Adjustment to Rates and Charges for Sanitation Services**

The City Commission approved the first reading of an ordinance to adjust the schedule of rates and charges for sanitation collection, disposal, and operating costs. The current ordinance established a 4% annual increase beginning in fiscal year 2021 through fiscal year 2024. Recent market challenges and contract changes have increased collection costs and processing and disposal fees, requiring that the sanitation rates be increased to better reflect the true cost of services and to retain appropriate fund reserves. The amended ordinance proposes solid waste and disposal charges would be adjusted to a 5% annual increase, effective October 1, 2024, and each year thereafter, unless the Commission takes action to increase, decrease, or eliminate the adjustment. For fiscal year 2025, this adjustment represents an increase of \$2.38 per month for a single-family residential home. For details, visit [ftlcity.info/3yLw7hm](http://ftlcity.info/3yLw7hm).

### **Information**

For more information on the August 20, 2024, Commission meetings, visit [fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar](http://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar).

### **Upcoming City Commission Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.