



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.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale, and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Reviews Urban Land Institute Report on Road Elevation Criteria

The City Commission reviewed findings from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) regarding strategies for road elevation to address tidal flooding in Fort Lauderdale. As sea levels continue to rise, tidal flooding has increasingly impacted low-lying neighborhoods, limiting access to some properties. Current projections indicate 10-17 inches of sea level rise by 2050, which will further exacerbate roadway inundation. In 2023, the City partnered with ULI to convene an independent panel to analyze flood-prone roads and develop criteria for elevating roads to withstand future sea level rise. The panel conducted site visits, engaged with stakeholders, and developed recommendations to help the City prioritize which roads to elevate and determine potential funding sources. At the direction of the City Commission, Public Works staff will use the ULI criteria to move forward with developing a Roadway Elevation Master Plan based on the City's vulnerability assessment. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4eDvipP.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING

The City Commission, acting as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board, approved an increase in forgivable loan funding of \$79,200 for the American Legion Robert Bethel Post 220 to finalize the substantial renovation and expansion of its facility at 1455 Sistrunk Boulevard. This funding is in addition to previous allocations, raising the total CRA contribution to \$846,100, approximately 90% of the project's total cost. The renovations have expanded the building from 960 square feet to 2,544 square feet, adding new meeting areas, a modern kitchen, and accessible restrooms. These improvements will support the American Legion's continued community services, including scholarships, food drives, and veterans' support initiatives. The final funding covers additional costs related to required code modifications and construction adjustments. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3YZKnMJ.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Change Order for New River Watermain Crossings Project

The City Commission approved Change Order No. 3 with Comtech Engineering, Inc., allocating \$341,691.98 for additional design and construction services to complete the New River Watermain Crossings Project. The change order includes extending the contract by 150 calendar days. This adjustment addresses unforeseen conditions requiring an interconnection between the existing 8-inch watermain and the newly installed watermain, ensuring the new system is fully operational. Previous change orders had extended the project timeline due to delays in permitting and other unexpected site conditions. The project aims to upgrade the City's water infrastructure to enhance resilience and sustainability. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4fR8q7d.

Commission Approves Agreement for Annie Beck Park Improvements

The City Commission approved an agreement with PRM Engineering & Contracting, Inc. for the Annie Beck Park Improvements project, totaling \$534,731.07. This project includes coastal improvements like shoreline stabilization, kayak launch ramp enhancements, ADA-compliant trails, drainage upgrades, and the installation of new benches and park fixtures. Following public engagement sessions in 2021, the proposed improvements were prioritized and approved by the City Commission. The Commission requested Parks staff attend the upcoming Victoria Park Civic Association meeting to share project details. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3ZdGu7W.

Commission Approves Increase for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Runway Rehabilitation

The City Commission approved an increase of \$707,584 to the agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) Runway 9-27 Pavement Rehabilitation project. This adjustment raises the total contract amount to \$1,507,584. The additional funding is needed to cover construction engineering services for the project. Initially approved in 2023, the contract included design and grant support services. The City also secured a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to partially fund the project. Funds are available in the City's FY 2025-2029 budget, supporting goals for improved infrastructure and economic growth at FXE. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/40VQOmr.

Commission Rejects Bid for Barrier Island Parking Wayfinding Signage Project

The City Commission voted to reject the sole bid received from Horsepower Electric Inc. for the Barrier Island Parking Wayfinding Signage project. The bid exceeded the project budget by approximately \$300,000. The project involved the manufacturing and installation of 20 wayfinding signs on Barrier Island. Despite extending the bid deadline and outreach efforts, only one vendor responded. Negotiations with the bidder failed to bring the cost within budget. As a result, the City will resolicit bids after revising the project scope to attract more competition and align with budget constraints. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4eCvbKX.

Commission Approves Agreement for Fixed Emergency Generators at Downtown Storm Stations

The City Commission approved an agreement with Horsepower Electric Inc. for the installation of fixed emergency generators at Stormstation 1 and Stormstation 2 in downtown Fort Lauderdale, with a contract amount of \$2,942,250, including allowances of \$130,000. The total project cost is \$3,004,250, covering additional in-house project management fees. This project is in response to flooding experienced during Hurricane Irma when power loss at key pump stations led to significant downtown flooding. The new generators will ensure continuous operation of the stormwater pumps during future power outages, enhancing flood protection. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) requested a modification to the generator placement to align with the Huizenga Park plan. Any additional costs for this change will be covered by the DDA. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4hTiCOR.

Commission Approves Expansion of Gunshot Detection Program

The City Commission approved a three-year agreement with SoundThinking, Inc. (formerly ShotSpotter, Inc.) to continue and expand the City's gunshot detection, location, and forensic analysis service. The contract totals \$1,453,350 for the initial three-year term, with two optional one-year renewals bringing the potential total to \$2,461,860. The ShotSpotter system has proven effective in providing real-time alerts for gunfire incidents, leading to the recovery of 1,660 shell casings, 25 guns, and 9 arrests in 2023 alone. The service will expand coverage from 4.66 square miles to 6.77 square miles within Fort Lauderdale, enhancing the City's ability to respond swiftly to gun violence and improve public safety. Funding of \$484,450 for FY 2025 is already allocated, with future funding contingent on budget appropriations. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/40T8HIO.

Commission Approves Amended Site Plan for Ocean Park Residences

The City Commission approved an amendment to the Site Plan Level IV Development Permit for Ocean Park Residences, increasing the project to 76 multifamily units with a five-story parking garage. The development, located at 2851/2901 NE 9th Court, replaces a previously approved mixed-use project that included a hotel and retail space. The revised plan features a 14-story residential building with a height of 144 feet, rooftop amenities, and a separate parking structure. The modifications include requests for yard changes, building height above 120 feet, and adjustments to tower setback and separation requirements. The Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) recommended approval with conditions such as infrastructure improvements, easements, and compliance with historical preservation protocols. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/40V0b5L.

Commission Approves Rezoning for Mixed-Use Development with Parking Garage and Fire/EMS Station

The City Commission approved the rezoning of 0.62 acres at 216 SE 8th Avenue from Residential Multifamily (RMM-25) to Community Business (CB). The rezoning includes allocating 0.62 acres of commercial flex acreage for a proposed mixed-use development. The project will feature a five-story parking garage with 302 parking spaces, 6,000 square feet of restaurant space, 11,036 square feet of retail, and an 8,570 square-foot Fire/EMS station. This development is part of a Comprehensive Agreement with Las Olas Parking Solutions, LLC, aimed at enhancing the Las Olas Boulevard corridor. The proposal aligns with the City's comprehensive plan to promote smart growth, improve public safety, and support economic development. The

project has been reviewed by the Development Review Committee (DRC) and the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB), which recommended approval. Conditions include infrastructure improvements for water and sewer capacity, neighborhood compatibility measures, and public participation requirements. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4eGyf93.

Commission Approves Amendments to Noise Control Ordinance

The City Commission approved on first reading amendments to Chapter 17 – Noise Control of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Code of Ordinances. The proposed changes are based on recommendations from the Noise Control Advisory Committee (NCAC) and a soundscape study conducted by Siebein Associates, Inc., followed by extensive community outreach. Key changes include introducing dBC limits to account for low-frequency sounds like bass, setting proactive noise measurements to be taken five feet from the building generating the noise and allowing complaint-based noise measurements in Special Entertainment Districts to be taken from the complainant's property line and adding restrictions for non-amplified sounds from residential properties to limit audible noise during specific hours. Public consultations included multiple town hall meetings and presentations to civic associations. These revisions aim to balance community peace with the needs of businesses, ensuring Fort Lauderdale remains a vibrant but livable city. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4fRd7xR.

Commission Certifies Results of 2024 Municipal Election

The City Commission adopted a resolution declaring the certified results of the 2024 Regular Municipal Election held on November 5, 2024. The election results, certified by the Broward County Canvassing Board, confirmed the following officials as elected: Mayor Dean Trantalis, Commissioner John C. Herbst (District 1), Commissioner Steven Glassman (District 2) and Commissioner-Elect Ben Sorensen (District 4). Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman (District 3) was unopposed and therefore was reelected. The resolution officially affirms the election outcomes and ensures the terms for these offices.

Information

For more information on the November 19, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

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