



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, January 7, 2025. 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 Provided with an Update on International Swimming Hall of Fame Project

The City Commission received an update on Phase One of the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) redevelopment project. The presentation outlined key components of the first phase, including the replacement of the existing seawall, construction of a new Ocean Rescue Headquarters, and the demolition of the existing east building. The seawall improvement involves over 1,400 linear feet of new infrastructure, representing an investment of approximately \$10 million. Additional highlights included the 7,600 square-foot Ocean Rescue Headquarters, which will feature office space, storage, and a rooftop viewing area. The project timeline anticipates significant progress in 2025, with enabling work and demolition slated for early in the year, followed by vertical construction and seawall installations. Coordination efforts to mitigate construction impacts on nearby businesses, pedestrians, and events were also emphasized. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3DKRqSq.

Commission Provided with City Hall Project Update

The City Commission received an update on the City Hall redevelopment project, which included progress on demolition of the previous City Hall and site preparation efforts. Staff outlined current actions, including the finalization of sitework, demobilization, and preparation for the next phases. The update also detailed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for selecting an owner's representative, with the RFQ closing in January 2025 and a potential award anticipated by spring 2025. The presentation emphasized aligning project goals with the City's vision for sustainable and efficient municipal operations. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4gJV9xY.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Agreement for Oceans of Soul Jazz Festival

The City Commission approved an agreement with Royal Recordings, LLC, to host the 2025 Oceans of Soul Jazz Festival on Fort Lauderdale Beach. The inaugural event, originally scheduled for December 2024, has been rescheduled to September 5-7, 2025, with event impacts spanning from September 2-10, 2025, to allow for advanced planning and improved artist availability. As part of the agreement, the organizer will cover all event costs, post an escrow equal to 110% of the City's estimated service costs, and secure all necessary permits and licenses. The festival will feature amplified music until 10:00 PM on Sunday, September 7, 2025, as approved by the City Commission. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3DNdyvI

Commission Approves License for Food and Beverage Service on Public Beach

The City Commission approved a license for the W Fort Lauderdale to sell, serve, and allow the consumption of food and alcoholic beverages on the public beach directly in front of the hotel, located at 401 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard. This approval follows the adoption of an ordinance on November 21, 2023, allowing such activities under Section 8-55.4 of the City Code. As part of the agreement, the W Fort Lauderdale will pay an annual fee of \$12,925, calculated based on the number of guest rooms at the hotel. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4fN5RCS.

Commission Approves Grant Agreement with NSU Art Museum

The City Commission approved a FY 2025 Not-for-Profit Grant Participation Agreement with Nova Southeastern University, Inc., allocating \$500,000 to support the NSU Art Museum. The funding will be utilized to deliver innovative art exhibitions and supplemental cultural, educational, and enrichment programs for Fort Lauderdale residents while stimulating tourism in the city. As part of the agreement, the NSU Art Museum will host a monthly Fort Lauderdale Neighbor Day, offering free entry to residents, and provide a 10% discount on museum catalogs. Additionally, the museum will make its auditorium available for up to nine free rentals for city events or public meetings. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3W56Sza.

Commission Establishes a Youth Chair Position on Sustainability Advisory Board

The City Commission adopted a resolution creating a non-voting Youth Chair position on the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB). The position is designed to engage younger residents in the City's sustainability and resiliency initiatives. Parker Jacobson-Bertanzetti, a high school junior, has been appointed as the first Youth Chair. Parker has actively participated in SAB meetings since June 2024, demonstrating a strong interest in sustainable City planning and representing the perspectives of Fort Lauderdale's youth. The Youth Chair position will serve for up to six one-year terms and is nominated by the Commission at large. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3DHzEzx.

Commission Approves Agreement for Rehabilitation of Pump Stations B-4 and A-20

The City Commission approved an agreement with Southern Underground Industries, Inc., for the rehabilitation of Pump Stations B-4 and A-20 in the amount of \$8,739,415. These pump stations, constructed in the 1970s, are aging and require significant upgrades to improve

efficiency, reliability, and overall system performance. The scope of work includes replacing mechanical, electrical, and ventilation equipment; replacing pumps, pipes, valves, and protective coatings; and relocating controls outside the station. The project aligns with the City's goals for infrastructure resilience and sustainability. Additional funding for project management and inspection services brings the total project cost to \$9,139,415. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3W3RSRN.

Commission Approves Increase in Contract Cost Capacity for Traffic Signal Improvements and Repairs

The City Commission approved an increase in cost capacity for the Piggyback Agreements for Traffic Signal Improvements and Repairs with AGC Electric, Inc., AUM Construction Inc., Horsepower Electric Inc., and R & D Electric, Inc. The additional funding of \$1,150,000 raises the total contract amount to \$1,500,000 through June 22, 2026, with annual renewal options increasing from \$175,000 to \$750,000 per year. This brings the potential total contract amount to \$3,000,000. The agreements provide essential services, including traffic and pedestrian signal repairs, signage, pavement markings, traffic calming elements, and ADA access ramp upgrades. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3Pp2GpU.

Commission Approves Agreement for Hauling and Disposal of Wastewater Treatment Sludge and Biosolids

The City Commission approved an agreement with Merrell Bros., Inc. (MBI) for hauling and disposal services related to wastewater treatment sludge and biosolids. The agreement covers an initial three-year term at a cost of \$18,604,500, with two one-year renewal options. MBI's bid was the sole submission received following a competitive solicitation, and after negotiations, the final pricing was agreed upon. The agreement will support the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant in managing approximately 3,300 tons of treated biosolids per month. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/4j4oJQy.

Commission Approves Agreement for Design Services for Pumping Station A-5

The City Commission approved an agreement with Chen Moore and Associates, Inc., for design services for Pumping Station A-5 in the amount of \$1,212,515.78. The new pumping station is required to divert some of the flow from the existing Pumping Station A-7, which is exceeding its intended capacity due to wet weather infiltration and increasing sewage flows from new residential development. The design work will include preparing detailed construction documents for the station, which will be located near North Andrews Avenue and NE 3rd Avenue. The project aims to address long-term capacity issues and is part of the City's ongoing efforts to enhance its sewer infrastructure. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/425H61w.

Commission Approves Height Increase and Modifications for Mixed-Use Development on Las Olas Boulevard

The City Commission approved amendments to a previously approved Site Plan Level IV development for a mixed-use project located at 1007 E. Las Olas Boulevard. The approved changes include an increase in building height from 123 feet, 5 inches to 149 feet, 2 inches, a reduction in hotel rooms from 138 to 81, the allocation of 17 multifamily residential flexibility units, and a parking reduction. The project will include an 81-room hotel, 5,330 square feet of

retail space, and residential units. The modifications were reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Board and recommended for approval. Additional changes include enhanced façade elements, underground parking, and expanded open space on the second and twelfth levels. For more details, visit ftlcity.info/3BY6xax.

Information

For more information on the January 7, 2025, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312.