



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

To view the video of the Commission meetings, visit bit.ly/2mgrQNI.

CONFERENCE MEETING

2020 Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests

The City Commission reviewed draft legislative priorities and funding requests in preparation for the 2020 state legislative session. Highlights of the legislative priorities being considered include: seeking financial support for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements; transportation enhancements; homelessness; affordable housing; and improving the quality of education. The City discussed supporting legislation that preserves municipal home rule, provides local regulation of short-term rental properties and sober homes, and removes the State's preemption of local regulations on vacation rentals. For details, visit bit.ly/2kgFvU1.

Changes to Special Events Policy

There was consensus to move forward with changes to the City's special events policy based on the findings of the special events working group. The group, composed of community leaders and City staff, met between November 2018 and May 2019 and developed a list of 11 recommendations including narrowing the definition of an outdoor event, categorizing outdoor events, and changing the way fees are assessed for applications and events. For details, visit bit.ly/2kjNOJS.

Banning Firearms at City Parks, Buildings and Facilities

Consensus was reached to have the City Attorney research and draft an ordinance that would ban firearms in City parks, buildings, and facilities.

CRA MEETING

\$500,000 Loan Approved for Molly Maguire's Pub and Eatery

The City Commission, acting in their capacity as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners, continued to invest in the northwest community by approving a \$500,000 Property and Business Improvement Program forgivable loan for Molly Maguire's Pub and Eatery, which will be located at 550 NW 7 Avenue in the Shoppes on Arts Avenue. The project will bring a much-needed restaurant to the area that will help activate the corridor, create jobs, and spur additional business development. The project is expected to open in the spring of 2020. For details, visit bit.ly/2IMKFYn.

\$1.5 million Loan Approved for Memphis Blues Complex

The CRA Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.5 million Development Incentive Program forgivable loan for Memphis Blues, a multi-level entertainment complex on Sistrunk Boulevard that will include a new restaurant and a blues lounge along with rental space for performing artists. The project includes repurposing and renovating an existing two-story building at 1448 Sistrunk Boulevard and constructing a three-story connecting structure to create the new Memphis Blues complex. For details, visit bit.ly/2IVhH8r.

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

Tentative Millage Rate of 4.1193 Adopted

The City Commission approved on first reading an operating millage rate of \$4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value. This marks the 13th consecutive year that the millage rate has not been increased. The Commission approved a tentative debt service millage rate of 0.2250 which will generate revenue to pay for four separate general obligation bonds including the recently passed public safety bond and parks bond. For details, visit bit.ly/2INaLdM.

Tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan Adopted

The City Commission adopted on first reading the tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP). The CIP is a planning document that sets forth the City's capital improvement objectives to ensure that municipal facilities and infrastructure improvements are appropriate and adequate to serve the needs of our neighbors. Total CIP funding for fiscal year 2020 is \$44.8 million. Highlights include infrastructure improvements to water and wastewater systems, replacing seawalls and bridges, electrical and lighting upgrades, street and roadway enhancements, and facility upgrades. For details, visit bit.ly/2IQMmDZ.

Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 Adopted

The City Commission adopted on first reading the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2020, beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2020. Return on Investment charges to the Water and Sewer and Central Regional Wastewater Funds in the tentative budget have been reduced by \$10.2 million, or 50 percent, since the FY 2018 adopted budget. The structurally balanced budget will enable the City to continue to provide quality services and advance priorities that include strengthening our water and sewer infrastructure, enhancing public safety, combating flooding and sea level rise, and addressing traffic congestion, transportation, and homelessness. For details, visit bit.ly/2mgVF0g.

REGULAR MEETING

City Receives \$250,000 State Grant to Assist Homeless

The City was awarded a \$250,000 grant from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help fund its rapid rehousing program. The program provides financial assistance and services to help homeless individuals and families in Fort Lauderdale obtain housing quickly and gain stability. A variety of assistance is provided including short-term or medium-term rental assistance, utility deposit assistance, and appropriate support services with case management to help homeless individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency. For details, visit bit.ly/2IMyHxL.

Agreement with Broward County to Establish Regional Solid Waste and Recycling System

The City Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Broward County to participate in the establishment and implementation of a regional solid waste management system. Under the agreement, the City, County and participating municipalities would work cooperatively to develop countywide strategies and solutions to address short- and long-term opportunities and challenges associated with providing cost-effective solid waste and recyclables processing and disposal services to their respective constituents. For details, visit bit.ly/2khDjvv.

\$660,000 Approved to Modernize Riviera Isles Wastewater Lift Station

The City Commission approved a contract with the Hinterland Group to replace the Riviera Isles wastewater lift station. The project represents a \$662,960 investment that will significantly upgrade and modernize the lift station, while increasing capacity of the wastewater system in the Las Olas area. For details, visit bit.ly/2IPetn4.

\$4 million in Upgrades Approved for George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant

The City Commission approved a \$3.9 million investment to upgrade and replace prestressed concrete cylinder pipe at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant currently processes up to 55.7 million gallons of wastewater per day. The project involves removing up to 360 linear feet of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe ranging from 42 inches to 66 inches in diameter and replacing it with ductile iron pipe. The new pipes will modernize and improve plant operations, increase efficiencies, and strengthen infrastructure. For details, visit bit.ly/2mbYb7P.

\$2 million Approved for Sewer Repairs and Replacement

The City Commission approved an investment of \$2 million for sewer repair and replacement projects. These projects are located throughout the City and include rehabilitating 8-inch to 36-inch diameter main lines, sanitary sewers and water mains, point repairs of main lines and laterals, manhole repairs, testing and sealing of pipe joints, flow bypass, and related activities. This ongoing work will continue to strengthen and enhance the City's wastewater system and operations. For details, visit bit.ly/2kkCiCX.

\$3.5 Million Approved for Wastewater Conveyance System Long-term Rehabilitation

The City Commission approved \$3.5 million in funding to expedite the rehabilitation of the Rio Vista sanitary sewer basin and the Flagler Heights sanitary sewer basin projects. The upgraded sewer basins will enhance the City's wastewater conveyance system, which moves millions of gallons of wastewater through miles of pipes to the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant. For details, visit bit.ly/2IUmlDG.

\$2.3 Million Investment in Downtown Mobility Hub Streetscape Improvements

The City Commission approved a \$2.3 million contract for streetscape improvements for the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Mobility Hub including wide sidewalks, shade trees, pedestrian lighting, dedicated bicycle facilities, and crosswalks within a multi-block area in downtown. This project will improve mobility and connect people to various transportation choices such as Virgin Trains USA (formerly Brightline), regional express and local bus service by Broward County, shuttle service to Tri-Rail, and Sun Trolley. It is being funded by a Federal Transit Administration grant administered by the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization. For details, visit: bit.ly/2kIX1Gu.

Updated Development Order Approved for Broward County Convention Center

The City Commission approved an updated plan for the Broward County Convention Center. The new development order decreases the number of hotel rooms, retail and office space, and increases convention center space. The updated plan expands the boundaries of the project to accommodate the proposed western expansion of the convention center. Conditions of approval include construction of the Port Everglades By-Pass Road, amenities to support multimodal transportation, incorporating energy conservation measures, green building design, and other requirements. For details, visit bit.ly/2kA63zT.

Human Relations Chapter Added to Code of Ordinances

The City Commission passed an ordinance on first reading creating Chapter 29 in the City's Code of Ordinances entitled "Human Relations" that supplements federal, state, and county antidiscrimination laws. It includes provisions to prohibit discrimination in employment, public accommodations, real estate transactions, and against families with children in multifamily rental housing. It also provides for rights and legal effects of domestic partnerships, and prohibits conversion therapy on minors. For details, visit bit.ly/2kmDSnS.

City Raises Minimum Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to 21

City Commissioners passed a new ordinance prohibiting the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products (including e-cigarettes and vaping devices) to anyone under 21 years of age. Tobacco use causes nearly half a million deaths annually, has devastating health consequences, and is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in America. Raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 years of age in Fort Lauderdale will have substantial public health benefits and help save lives. For details, visit bit.ly/2ITViss.

Amendments to Historic Preservation Ordinance Approved

The City Commission passed an ordinance amending sections of Unified Land Development Regulations pertaining to the existing Historic Preservation Ordinance. These amendments are designed to have a positive impact on the overall historic preservation program by streamlining the application process and providing neighbors with a greater level of comfort and clear expectations for processing applications on properties that are individually designated or are located within a designated historic district. For details, visit bit.ly/2miLVCL.

Site Plan Approved for New L.A. Lee YMCA Mizell Community Center

The City Commission has approved the site plan for the L.A. Lee YMCA Mizell Community Center project, which will bring a new \$15 million multipurpose facility to historic Sistrunk community. Located at 1409 Sistrunk Boulevard, the project includes a 71,737 square-foot building with 66,214 square feet dedicated for a YMCA and 5,523 square feet for retail space fronting Sistrunk Boulevard. Amenities will include a health and wellness center, gymnasium, pool, pre-school care, after-school programs, a black box theatre, business incubator and coworking space, community conference space, rooftop patios, and Broward College classrooms and offices. For details, visit bit.ly/2IPjIDg.