The City of Fort Lauderdale will be hosting virtual Commission meetings using audio/video conferencing software until further notice. The public can listen to and view virtual meetings on FLTV, YouTube, Zoom, Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about virtual City Commission meetings, including how to view agendas and sign up to speak, visit fortlauderdale.gov/vcmeetings.

In case you missed it, following are highlights from the First Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 3. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale and the vote summary will be available this week at bit.ly/ftlccagendas.

FIRST BUDGET HEARING

Commission Adopts Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 for Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District
The City Commission passed on first reading resolutions adopting the tentative millage rate and tentative budget for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for Fiscal Year 2021. The Commission adopted a millage rate of 1.0000 mill on the dollar of taxable assessed valuation. Revenue generated from this millage rate is estimated at $136,652, which will support the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District budget for Fiscal Year 2021. For details, visit bit.ly/3bpAZZj.

Tentative Operating Millage Rate of 4.1193 Adopted for Fiscal Year 2021
The City Commission approved on first reading a tentative operating millage rate of $4.1193 per $1,000 of taxable value to fund operating expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2021 General Fund Budget. This marks the 14th consecutive year that the millage rate has not been increased. The Commission approved a tentative debt service millage rate of 0.2218 which will generate revenue to pay for four separate general obligation bonds including the recently passed Public Safety Bond, which is funding the construction of a new Police headquarters, and the Parks Bond, which is being used for citywide improvements to parks and recreation facilities. For details, visit bit.ly/32SsDpi.

Tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP) Adopted
The City Commission unanimously adopted on first reading the tentative Five-Year Community Investment Plan (CIP), 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. The Five-Year CIP will appropriate more than $190 million in Fiscal Year 2021 for a variety of capital improvement projects including infrastructure improvements to water, sewer, and stormwater systems; replacing seawalls and bridges; electrical and lighting upgrades; street and roadway enhancements; and facility upgrades. For details, visit bit.ly/2F7SlS7.

Tentative Budget Approved for Fiscal Year 2021
The City Commission unanimously adopted on first reading the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2021. The tentative all funds budget of $847,858,597 includes a millage rate of $4.1193 per $1,000 of taxable value and Fire Assessment Fee of $311 per residential dwelling. The tentative budget completely eliminates the Return on Investment (ROI) transfers from the Water, Sewer, and Wastewater Utility Funds to the General Fund. This represents a reduction of $20.4 million (since Fiscal Year 2018) in revenue to the General Fund. The budget is structurally balanced with ongoing revenues equal to ongoing expenses and does not utilize Fund Balance dollars or one-time budget balancing techniques. The budget includes funding to move the City Commission’s top priorities forward including: Homelessness and Housing Opportunities; Infrastructure; Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan Implementation; Waterway Quality; Transportation and Traffic; and Resiliency. For details, visit bit.ly/353rLRB.
Second Virtual Budget Hearing on September 14
The Second Virtual Budget Hearing will take place on Monday, September 14 at 5:01 p.m. The public can listen to and view the meeting on FLTV, YouTube, Zoom, Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about virtual City Commission meetings, including how to view agendas and sign up to speak, visit fortlauderdale.gov/vcmeetings.