



City of Pompano Beach

Detailed Minutes - Final

City Commission

- Rex Hardin, Mayor*
- Alison Fournier, Vice Mayor*
- Audrey Fesik, Commissioner*
- Beverly Perkins, Commissioner*
- Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton, Commissioner*
- Darlene Smith, Commissioner*

- Gregory P. Harrison, City Manager*
- Mark Berman, City Attorney*
- Kervin Alfred, City Clerk*

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

9:00 AM

Cultural Arts Center

Budget Workshop

50 West Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the City Commission Budget Workshop to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

- Present:** Commissioner Audrey Fesik
 Commissioner Beverly Perkins
 Commissioner Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton
 Commissioner Darlene Smith
 Vice Mayor Alison Fournier
 Mayor Rex Hardin

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Hardin inquired with City Manager Harrison whether there were any changes to the Agenda. Mr. Harrison confirmed that there were none.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fournier, seconded by Commissioner Sigerson-Eaton, that the Agenda be APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [26-250](#) Preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Staff Contact: Joshua Watters

Mayor Hardin introduced the item, stating that this is a preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2027. He then turned the floor over to Brian Donovan, Assistant City Manager, for further comments.

Mr. Donovan introduced the item and explained that this workshop was to get Commission input on service level, tax rates, fire assessments, and any other budget item that should be considered. He reminded the Commission of the budget workshops being held in June and July, along with the September budget hearings. Mr. Donovan then turned the floor over to Mr. Joshua Watters, Budget Director.

Mr. Watters began by giving a presentation that discussed the General Fund, Tax Rate, and Fire Assessment Fees. He went over the schedule for the upcoming Budget Workshops and Budget Hearings for the remainder of the budget process. Mr. Watters then discussed General Fund revenues and expenditures, along with budget pressures, including salary and benefit projections, pension contributions, Fire Union negotiations, and BSO contract increases. Continuing, the presentation gave a summary of the City's taxable value and millage rates. A comparison with all 31 Broward County municipalities was provided for the aggregate Millage rate and the operating Millage rate, as well as a comparison of 25 Broward municipalities for the Fire Assessment Fees. Mr. Watters also provided a legislative update on Senate Bill 1134: Local Government DEI Restrictions, House Bill 1329L: Local Government Financial Transparency and Accountability Act, and Property Tax Reform. Lastly, Mr. Watters announced that the Budget Office had again received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. The full presentation is available upon request from the City Clerk's Office.

Mayor Hardin sought public input on the item; there being none, he invited Commission discussion.

Comr. Smith distributed a handout with her budget requests for District 5. These requests included road paving in District 5 and city-wide, safer crosswalks with improved signage at shared-use path crossings and unsignalized intersections, solar speed-reader signs installed in problematic areas, the possibility of purchasing the land on which the water wells are located throughout the City in order to protect them, and lastly, her recommendation for modifications to the BSO contract. The handout is available upon request from the City Clerk's Office.

Vice Mayor Fournier inquired as to what would happen should a property tax reform bill pass and if there has been talk of where additional sources of funding would come from. Mr. Watters stated that he has not heard anything concrete from anyone regarding that matter, but he did share that the City could always increase the Fire Assessment Fee to cover some of the difference, along with increasing the millage rate for non-homesteaded properties. Vice Mayor Fournier asked for clarification on what it means when the bill states no cuts to public safety. Mr. Watters explained that the funding floor for police and fire services would be established by the dollar amount budgeted in FY 2026 or 2027, depending on whether or not it passes. Vice Mayor asked if the City is currently on track for revenues, to which Mr. Watters replied that the City is.

Continuing, Vice Mayor Fournier asked what happens should the County prevail at the State level regarding

the BSO Compensation Study Phase 2. Mr. Watters said that essentially, \$4.2 million would accrue back to the General Fund balance. Vice Mayor requested a timeline regarding the health insurance RFP. Lisa Sonogo, Human Resource Director, informed that the RFP has already gone out and is currently in the question-and-review phase, and it should be complete in 2-3 months. Vice Mayor Fournier inquired whether that would give the City enough time to determine the increase, to which Mr. Watters responded that they would have time to make the necessary adjustments. Vice Mayor Fournier expressed her concern with the City's fleet and asked if steps have been taken to improve fleet management. Allison Feurtado, Finance Director, shared that a fleet policy has been established. A total inventory is currently being completed, and once that is finished, a determination can be made of where reductions can be made. Vice Mayor Fournier asked how departments go into the budgeting process and if they ever look at what it would actually cost to start the department over. Mr. Watters stated that the City does incremental budgeting, not zero-base budgeting. He informed that in his experience, it is very intense from an administrative standpoint to do zero-base budgeting, and the result isn't usually the cost reduction one would look for. He further explained how the departments create their individual budgets.

Furthermore, Vice Mayor Fournier stated that the Commission and City should be proud of where the millage rate has stayed despite inflation and cost increases. She then asked about the possibility of the DEI Restrictions Senate Bill and what would be in place regarding City contracts that would protect the City and prove that someone wasn't chosen for DEI. Mr. Berman said that the contract language is being reviewed now, and processes would be looked at to ensure the City would be in compliance with State law. She then inquired if there are any steps that should be taken now to prepare for the possibility of HB 1329. Mr. Donovan informed that reviews were done last fiscal year regarding park impact fees. Renuka Mohammed, Utilities Director, shared that they are currently reviewing utility impact fees, and the study should be concluded in 4-6 months. In addition, the Vice Mayor asked if the City is currently looking into 10% reductions just to see what it could look like. Mr. Watters informed that the budget office did ask departments to submit a potential 10% reduction this budget cycle. Vice Mayor Fournier agreed with Comr. Smith's suggestion that the paving plan needs to be completed as soon as possible. She asked Major Ellwood if the speed-radar signs are helpful, to which he responded that he believes that they are helpful.

Comr. Fesik thanked Mr. Watters for his presentation. She also stated her appreciation for the budget office having the departments go through the 10% reduction exercise. She asked to see the proposed reductions, the fleet policy, and the current inventory. She agreed with Comr. Smith on the need for safer crosswalks and to utilize solar-powered signage. Comr. Fesik discussed streetscapes and the need for connector pieces to major arteries throughout the City. She also brought forward the idea to incorporate the CRA into a streetscape plan to shift or share the cost burden with them. Comr. Fesik proposed a dog park on the beach. The park would be gated, not on the actual beach, and that could be utilized in order to have no cost to the City. Furthermore, she proposed a voluntary annual program for residents and stressed the need for residents to have a dog-friendly place in the community. Comr. Fesik then distributed a handout regarding a reimagined Atlantic Boulevard and Briny Avenue corridor. She explained the current challenges such as road closures during beach events and the safety concerns. She also expressed her concern for the traffic impact the W Hotel will cause once the project is complete. Comr. Fesik's handouts are available upon request from the City Clerk's Office.

Comr. Perkins inquired about the cost to extend the BSO contract another year. Mr. Donovan stated that an estimate has still not been given, as the negotiation is ongoing. Comr. Perkins asked if there had been increases

requested for consultants. Mr. Watters informed that department requests are still being reviewed; however, he has not seen requests for that so far. He explained that once the review is complete, budget increases will be flagged so the Commission can review those requests. Comr. Perkins inquired about money that had been set aside for District 4. Mr. Donovan said he would get back to her with the specifics of that money and which account it is in.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton thanked Mr. Watters for his presentation and expressed her appreciation for Comr. Smith's suggestions, as she believes those are quality of life issues and those are the most important issues for residents, next to public safety. She expressed concern with a lighting issue on the west side of Federal Highway, from 54th to almost Copans, and would like staff to look into a pedestrian lighting system in that area.

Mayor Hardin thanked the budget team for their presentation.

INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. NO ACTION TAKEN AT THIS WORKSHOP.

B. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at 10:35 AM.

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Kervin Alfred
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Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

Signed by:
Rex Hardin
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Rex Hardin, Mayor

Signed by:

