



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

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

2:00 PM

City Manager's Large Conference Room

Budget Workshop

100 West Atlantic Blvd., 4th Floor
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the City Commission Budget Workshop to order at 2:00 PM.

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 about any changes to the Agenda, and Mr. Harrison affirmed that there were none.

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

A. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [25-259](#) Preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming budget for

Fiscal Year 2026.
(Fiscal Impact: N/A)

(Staff Contact: Liliana Alvarez)

Mayor Hardin introduced the item, stating that this is a preliminary discussion on policy recommendations for inclusion in the upcoming budget for Fiscal Year 2026. He then turned the floor over to Greg Harrison, City Manager, for further comments.

Mr. Harrison informed that this is the annual review, with staff and the Commission present, to hear any ideas on what the Commission would like to see staff look at regarding keeping policy, changing policy, or completely new ideas for the upcoming budget. He then turned the meeting over to Liliana Alvarez, interim Budget Director.

Ms. Alvarez welcomed everyone to the Budget Workshop and acknowledged Erjeta Diamanti, budget consultant, who was attending via Zoom. She then gave a presentation on revenue and expenditure projections, a summary of the City's taxable value, and millage rates.

Earl Bosworth, Assistant City Manager, gave an update on legislative challenges. Some of the challenges discussed were homestead exemption, affordable housing, state sales tax reduction, sovereign immunity, development fees, impact fees, local option taxes, and utility relocation.

Mayor Hardin then opened the floor for Commission discussion and went by district, with Comr. Fesik asking to go later in the order.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton expressed that she is hopeful that the City will see an increase in revenues once the final tax numbers are in from the Property Appraiser's Office. Continuing, she stated that her district doesn't have much open space or things for people to do, so the things she had in the Capital Improvement Plan, such as the connectivity to the Charlotte Burrie Center, are very important. Comr. Sigerson-Eaton informed that sidewalks are an important item for her district, noting that the Cresthaven neighborhood is the highest priority. She emphasized that she will always advocate for Public Works and Code Enforcement to ensure that they always have enough staff to continue to do a great job servicing the City. Comr. Sigerson-Eaton noted that she does not want to raise the millage rate but is unsure if she would drop the rate either.

Comr. Perkins informed that the biggest concern from residents is the need for affordable or workforce housing in her district. She stated that there are plenty of developers willing to come to Pompano Beach but they are being turned away by the City. Comr. Perkins also believes that the Public Works and Code Enforcement departments are understaffed and her district would benefit from having more staff available.

Comr. Smith emphasized a strong need for license plate readers and cameras at all the entry and exit points of Collier City and Palm Aire. She passed out a map of these areas to staff and the Commission. Comr. Smith proposed purchasing the Palms Golf Course, located in Palm Aire, in order to have green space, walking trails, and to relocate Sand and Spurs there. She noted that there is a deed restriction on the property, mandating it stay a golf course until 2030, but she hopes the City will start working on a plan to make sure it remains a green space after that. Comr. Smith stated a need for an increase in the budget to help the homeless and that there

may be a need to increase bulk pickup in Collier City.

Comr. Fesik expressed the strong need for paving and sidewalks in her district, as well as lighting in areas that are not lit up at all. Comr. Fesik asked about the lit crosswalks that were supposed to be installed on A1A. Fernand Thony, GO Bond Director, responded that these are still being installed, and an item should be coming before the Commission soon to be able to start the process. Comr. Fesik also agreed with the need for more staff within Public Works and Code Enforcement.

Vice Mayor Fournier inquired if the City was on track with previous years in terms of revenue and expenditures. Ms. Alvarez responded that they could check prior years to give her specifics, but that she could say that the revenue is currently higher than expected because the majority of the property tax revenue has been received and on the expense side, the Fire Pension is paid out of the 1st quarter, but overall, the City is currently on track.

Vice Mayor Fournier asked about the risk of having both the contract negotiation of the BSO contract and the Fire Union in the same fiscal year. Brian Donovan, Assistant City Manager, explained that they would have a better idea in May of what their total proposed package would be, and the Fire Union contract should be complete by September. He confirmed that both these contracts would be effective for fiscal year 2026.

Vice Mayor Fournier recalled a conversation regarding a study on the Fire Assessment Fee and reducing the cost to residents and inquired if there was a plan to do that. Mr. Donovan stated that there is not a plan to do that at this time but stated that next fiscal year a study would be done.

Vice Mayor Fournier reiterated the need to complete the 5-year paving plan, as that is the number one complaint from residents, and the need for more Code Compliance staff. Vice Mayor Fournier agreed with Commissioner Smith on the need for more bulk pickup.

She then asked for clarification regarding the budgeting for CIP projects costing more than originally planned. Suzette Sibble, Assistant City Manager, and Tammy Good, CIP Manager, both explained that staff usually provides a cushion in the budget for this, but that any additional funds would come from the fund balance if needed.

Vice Mayor Fournier proposed a study to potentially close off certain roads so that neighborhood cut-through traffic could be reduced. John Sfiropoulos, City Engineer, responded that it could be done as part of the Transportation Master Plan and it would involve the County since they decide if the roads could be closed. He emphasized that public safety and response times cannot be impacted.

Vice Mayor Fournier inquired if a CIP is in the works for the light at Cypress Road and SE 9th intersection. Mr. Sfiropoulos stated that no, there is not, and that previously there was no support from the County for that item. Continuing, she expressed concern for the dollar amount spent of consulting services and asked staff to look into opportunities to use City staff instead of outside consulting services. Furthermore, she asked for the City to look into a more efficient way to reduce the fleet.

Mayor Hardin echoed the point that the streets being repaved needs to be the priority.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton informed that they looked into closing streets in District 2 previously and explained issues that were encountered with the County trying to do so. Mr. Sfiropoulos explained that there has been an agreement with the County since the 1990s that requires the County's approval before they can close roads, add speed bumps, add traffic lights to certain intersections, and other similar modifications/improvements to the roadways. Mr. Harrison added that there is an issue of enough right-of-way for fire trucks to turn around. He assured the Commission they would still keep working on it and see what can be done.

Vice Mayor Fournier stated that she would like to see a minimum of 0.5 percent decrease in the millage rate for every 10 percent increase in taxable value. Mayor Hardin stated that they should shoot for the maximum savings possible.

Comr. Smith inquired of Mr. Sfiropoulos if roundabouts were an option to reduce speed on the streets that Vice Mayor Fournier was concerned with. Mayor Hardin explained that there is not enough right-of-way space to make the roundabouts big enough to actually make a difference in traffic speed reduction.

Comr. Fesik asked if the City will still be providing EMS services to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. Mr. Harrison replied that currently the City does still provide services, but there is a termination date planned. Vice Mayor Fournier inquired of the termination date. Tracy Lyons, Deputy City Attorney, explained that the termination date is June of this year, but the contract language states that the City must provide services for a 24-month period at cost, which encourages them to replace the City's services quicker.

Mayor Hardin opened the floor for public input.

Ed Philips, 344 NW 19th St, Pompano Beach, FL, wanted to commend Comr. Perkins for talking about affordable housing in District 4. He also expressed the need for repaving of the roads throughout the City. Mr. Philips stated that he did not believe closing any roads would have a positive impact on the traffic concerns. He urged the Commission to find out how to help nonprofit organizations trying to have events in the City requiring police presence due to the high cost per hour of hiring police services.

David Hall, 290 SE 8th Ct., Pompano Beach, FL, encouraged the Commission to look at projects that increase revenue and accelerate revenue to help offset the cost to taxpayers.

Dominique Louis, 400 NE 2nd St, Pompano Beach, FL, informed that he has extensive experience in the technology field and encouraged the City to use technology correctly to assist local schools. He encouraged the City to evaluate how technology is currently used and whether it aligns with future uses.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Hardin concluded public input and moved on to Commission discussion

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton mentioned a property that has become a homeless camp and is regularly a problem area for Code Compliance. She asked staff to reach out to the property owner and see if they would be interested in selling.

Comr. Fesik expressed the need to come up with new Parks and Recreation programs for children and residents of the City or to better fund those that already exist. She expressed how public works issues and code compliance issues need to be a priority, but so does the need to ensure there are things for the children to do within the City.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS WORKSHOP.

B. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Rex Hardin, Mayor

Kervin Alfred, City Clerk