



**City of Lauderdale Lakes**  
Office of the City Clerk  
4300 Northwest 36 Street - Lauderdale Lakes, Florida 33319-5599  
(954) 535-2705 - Fax (954) 535-0573

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**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**April 13, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Veronica Edwards Phillips called the April 13, 2026 City Commission Workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

Vice Mayor Sharon Thomas  
Commissioner Tycie Causwell  
Commissioner Easton Harrison

**ABSENT**

Mayor Veronica Edwards Phillips  
Commissioner Karlene Maxwell-Williams (virtually present)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Acting City Manager Venice Howard  
City Attorney Sidney Calloway  
Deputy City Clerk Pav Benasrie-Watson  
City Staff

**3. DISCUSSION**

REVIEW OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item 9.A. RESOLUTION 2026-028** RESOLUTION 2026-028 AWARDING A CONTRACT TO R4 GREEN FL LLC FOR HOLIDAY DECORATION SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF LAUDERDALE LAKES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHT DOLLARS AND TWO CENTS (\$37,708.02) WITH A PERMITTING CONTINGENCY NOT TO EXCEED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$1,000.00)

Aazam Piprawala, Procurement Manager, stated that Holiday lighting and décor is a highly visible City initiative that reflects the Mayor and City Commission's commitment to community pride and celebrating the holiday season. In prior years, holiday décor services were coordinated on a year-to-year basis without a formal process for setting expectations, budgeting, or procurement timelines. As the program has evolved, staff identified the need to implement a more consistent and structured approach to planning and delivering this important seasonal initiative. The City issued a solicitation on our OpenGov platform, ITB26-3410-22B for Holiday Decoration Services, so as to secure a vendor to provide turnkey, professionally installed holiday lighting and decorative services for City-owned facilities, parks, monuments, landscaped

areas, and other high-visibility public locations. Services shall include planning coordination, material provision, installation, seasonal maintenance, monitoring, removal, and site restoration. To ensure professional installations and proper management of the displays, these services will be performed by the lowest responsible, responsive vendor. This approach supports efficiency, safety, and the overall quality of the City's holiday décor. City staff is requesting the award of this contract to R4 Green FL LLC for Holiday Decoration Services in accordance with the City's Procurement Code, Section 82-356(a)(1), of the Lauderdale Lakes procurement code which allows Competitive sealed bidding (Invitation to Bid). The term of this agreement shall be for a three (3) year term, effective October 1, 2026, and may be renewed for an additional two (2) one-year terms, for a total term not to exceed five (5) years. Each renewal of this agreement shall be contingent upon approval by the City and continued satisfactory performance by the vendor in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

**Item 9.B. RESOLUTION 2026-029** AWARDING A CONTRACT TO LAKDAS YOHALEM ENGINEERING INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY (\$46,650.00) TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF THE OAKLAND VILLAS CLUB HOUSE LOCATED AT 4301 NW 48TH AVENUE

Mr. Piprawala stated that the Procurement department was contacted by the Public Works department requesting a vendor from the Library of Professional Services the City has. There are about eleven disciplines and they are managed on a rotation basis for each discipline. The Public Works Director was presented with a vendor under structural engineering based on the scope that was provided. BCC Engineering was contacted and the price received was not favorable, neither, was it recommended by the department. Based on how the Library of Professional Services operates, the department is allowed if they feel that the price is not satisfactory to go to the next vendor in the rotation. The next vendor was contacted and the price received was lower and award is now being recommended based on the scope of services.

Commissioner Causwell inquired as to what type of work the contractor is going to do.

Ron Desbrunes, Public Works Director, stated that the scope of services covers the structural integrity assessment, mechanical, electrical and plumbing. He further stated that stated that on February 2025, the city purchased the Oakland Villas Club House located at 4301 NW 48th Avenue through a public auction. A Certificate of Title was issued on July 1st , 2025. The property was acquired as-is. Given the nature of auction acquisitions, the City did not have the opportunity for exhaustive pre-purchase inspections. To ensure the safety of the structure, determine necessary future capital improvements, a comprehensive assessment of the facility is required. Through the library consultants approved by City Commission, staff requested proposals from pre-qualified professional team to conduct the following assessments of property: Structural Integrity: Evaluation of the foundation, framing, roofing and load-bearing elements. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems (MEP): Inspection of Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing systems for code compliance and efficiency. Pool and Equipment Systems: Assessment of existing pool structure ADA Compliance: Review of accessibility components such as parking, restrooms, and all entrances for compliance. Future Use Feasibility: Cost-benefit analysis of renovation versus replacement based on the City's intended use. Two (2) proposals were received as follow: Consultants Bid Price Lakdas/ Yohalem Engineering Inc. \$46,650.00 and BCC Engineering \$58,000.00.

## **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS ON REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 10.A. RESOLUTION 2026-030** APPOINTING A DIRECTOR, ALTERNATE AND SECOND ALTERNATE TO THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES FOR 2026-2027

Venice Howard, Acting City Manager/City Clerk stated that the City of Lauderdale Lakes is a participating member of the Broward League of Cities ("BLOC"), which is a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose membership is made up of elected officials from municipal governments and area businesses that are dedicated to raising awareness and resolving issues facing the cities and municipalities in Broward County. Each municipal member of the BLOC, including the City, is required to appoint a director, an alternate, and a second alternate ("Appointees") for the purpose of attending and voting at any Board of Directors or General Membership meeting held where such appointed official is present to represent his or her municipality. The deadline for the appointments is April 17, 2026.

Commissioner Causwell stated that Mayor Edwards Phillips sits on four boards and she only sits on one board. She is proposing she becomes the Director and Mayor Edwards Phillips the alternate director. Further discussion will continue when Mayor Edwards Phillips is present.

**Item 10.B. RESOLUTION 2026-031** AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING WOMEN OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WOVA) TO HOST COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES ON MAY 2, 2026, AND SEPTEMBER 5, 2026, AT THE VINCENT TORRES PARK TO RAISE FUNDS TO ASSIST VETERANS IN NEED WITHIN THE CITY (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER MAXWELL-WILLIAMS)

Commissioner Maxwell-Williams stated that she is sponsoring these events to jointly collaborate with WOVA to host a Community Garage Sale Events on May 2, 2026, and September 5, 2026, to be held at the Vincent Torres Park .

Commissioner Causwell stated that the resolution states that the City's logo will not be used and it is not a commissioner initiative. Who will be held liable if there is an accident.

City Attorney Calloway stated that he is unable to specifically who will be held liable, however, if something happens on a property owner's property, the property owner would have some level of legal exposure. Entities who are using the City's 'property should have some type of insurance. The City could execute a document that would include some level of an indemnification provision that would suggest that if the City incurs that kind of liability or exposure to a lawsuit, that party would agree to indemnify or put itself in the place of the City by virtue of expenses, resources and time.

Commissioner Causwell inquired as to why the logo was not being utilized if it is a joint collaboration.

Commissioner Maxwell-Williams stated that she does not have an issue with the logo being on the flyer. She stated that last year there were no logo nor photos on the flyer.

Commissioner Harrison stated that he is in favor of placing the logo and the photos on the flyer.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked if there is a code clarifying what a partnership or joint collaboration is.

Mr. Calloway stated that he does not believe there is a specific code that speaks of that. He defined what a partnership and joint collaboration is based on the law.

Commissioner Maxwell-Williams stated that the logo and the pictures will be used on the flyer and requested that the resolution be updated.

**Item 10.C. RESOLUTION 2026-032** AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION SUBMITTAL TO BROWARD COUNTY FOR FUNDING FOR THE 52ND YEAR CDBG FOR THE MINOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM, SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AND SENIOR QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAM

Tanja McCoy, Development Services Director, stated that Staff is requesting that the City Commission consider continuing the Minor Home Repair program by submitting the 52nd year CDBG Program application. Staff recommends to continue the program based on the need, since there are no other programs available to the Lauderdale Lakes residents to assist with making the necessary repairs to stay in their home given the high price of housing and inflation in general. The Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) is of great assistance to meet the needs to harden our homes, however; HLMP does not account for electrical, plumbing, mechanical and other needs in the home such as ADA accessibility. Furthermore, HLMP does not provide assistance to homes with a common party wall, meaning all homes in the program must be single family detached dwelling. Broward County has opened the invitation for eligible CDBG Programs for the new 52nd Year CDBG Funding Cycle and the funds will become available at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The City recommends the submission of an application for the 52nd Year CDBG Funding Cycle for three (3) programs to include Minor Home Repair, Senior Transportation Program and Quality of Life Enhancement Program. Per Broward County requirements, the CDBG applications must support the objectives of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) entitlement programs and must be integral to the goals of the Broward County

Consolidated Plan. Proposal applications must fulfill the following HUD National Objectives: 1. Activities benefiting low-and moderate-income persons 2. Activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight 3. Activities design to meet community needs having a particular urgency 4. Public Service Program Activities cannot exceed 15% of the total CDBG allocation. The following are the proposed program funding levels and descriptions for your consideration. All the proposed CDBG applications meet the HUD National Objectives. 1. Minor Home Repair Program - This program provides assistance to current homeowners to in the form of a 10-year forgivable home loan. The proposed amount of \$257,875.00 provided under the Agreement shall be used by the City to continue the Minor Home Repair. The goal is to assist a minimum of 5 residents not to exceed to \$45,500.00 per residence, this increase is based on the high construction cost.

Ericka Lockett, Parks and Human Services Director, stated that the Senior Transportation Program provides low/moderate income senior residents with an affordable and comprehensive means of transportation. This program provides portal-to-portal transportation for low/moderate income senior residents 62 or more years of age of the City of Lauderdale Lakes. The bus will be operated by a private contractor. The estimated funding amount \$45,000.00. This program will be managed by Parks and Human Services Department. 3. Quality of Life Enhancement Program This program is designed for low/moderate income seniors 62 or more years of age. The program is titled Lifelong Learning for Seniors. The Lifelong Learning for Seniors component is designed to help senior residents of the city maintain an optimum quality of life, while supporting their dignity, self-sufficiency, health and safety. The program provides for programs offered Monday through Friday. The estimated funding is \$15,000.00. This program will be managed by the Department of Parks and Human Service Department.

Commissioner Causwell inquired as to how many homes can be repaired with the \$275,875.00.

Ms. McCoy stated that \$45,000 is allocated to each home so five homes can be repaired.

**Item 10.D. RESOLUTION 2026-033** RESOLUTION 2026-033 AUTHORIZING THE ACTING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ADDITIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CALVIN, GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, INC. (CGA) THROUGH THE CITY'S LIBRARY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Ms. McCoy stated that the Development Services Department continues to experience increased workload demands within the Planning and Zoning Division, including development application reviews, certificate of use processing, and ongoing coordination with applicants and internal departments. Current staffing levels are insufficient to consistently meet required service timelines, particularly during the ongoing transitions and recruitment efforts. Pursuant to the City's Library of Professional Services contract (Contract No. 22-3110-07Q), CGA can be engaged to provide professional planning services to support departmental operations. The Additional Services Agreement outlines that CGA will supply qualified planning staff, mutually agreed upon by the City, to perform day-to-day planning functions, including responding to public inquiries, completing certificate of use reviews, and conducting zoning compliance reviews of building plans. The agreement anticipates an average level of service based on workload demands and provides flexibility for the City to utilize CGA staff as needed to maintain operational continuity and customer service standards. Compensation will be based on hourly rates in accordance with the approved fee schedule, with total annual expenditures not to exceed \$80,000. Utilizing the Library of Professional Services ensures compliance with procurement requirements while allowing the City to efficiently address immediate staffing and service delivery needs without delay.

Vice Mayor Thomas inquired as to if there is an advertisement for a Principal Planner.

Ms. McCoy stated that there is an advertisement and once the Principal Planner is hired then then she will no longer be using CGA.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked how would the time be structured.

Ms. McCoy stated she is looking for right to sixteen hours with a maximum contract cost of \$80,000.

Commissioner Harrison asked how many people have applied for the Principal Planner.

Ms. McCoy stated that there have been four applicants.

Commissioner Harrison asked for the status of the applicants.

Tara Williams, Human Resources department stated that two out of the four applicants have met the qualifications and interviews are being scheduled.

Commissioner Harrison asked how long will it take to hire the Principal Planner,

Ms. McCoy stated that the entire process should take about three months.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE(S)**

#### **5. ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP ITEMS**

##### **A. DISCUSSION REGARDING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACTING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN ADDITIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CALVIN, GIORDANO & ASSOCIATES, INC. (CGA) THROUGH THE CITY'S LIBRARY OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PLANNING SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

This item was reviewed under 10. D. on the City Commission agenda.

##### **B. DISCUSSION REGARDING REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS (SEC. 54-17 AND SEC. 505)**

Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Chief, Charles Hackett, provided information regarding the fire code relative to special events. He spoke about being proactive instead of reactive, trying to reduce the risk of death injuries and providing life safety and property conservation. Her reviewed the State of Florida Fire Code as well.

Commissioner Harrison inquired as to what the Fire Code Enforcement will not be able to enforce.

Chief Hackett stated that they would not be able to do fire code enforcement on single family residences.

Ms. McCoy stated that the City of Lauderdale Lakes currently regulates sales events and special events under Section 54-17 and Section 505 of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs). These provisions establish definitions, require permitting through the Development Services Department, and provide a general framework for temporary uses. Special events are broadly defined as temporary activities that are not otherwise permitted by zoning, may disrupt traffic, or require municipal services such as police or fire rescue. Under the existing framework, events such as seasonal sales, sidewalk sales, garage sales, parades, fairs, and similar activities are processed through an administrative permitting structure, with limited operational criteria and no requirement for a public hearing. While this structure provides administrative flexibility, it does not differentiate between varying scales or impacts of events, nor does it establish detailed performance standards. Staff review has identified several regulatory gaps, including the absence of an event classification system, limited operational standards related to noise, safety, security, sanitation, and traffic management, and a rigid limitation of three events per year per property. Additionally, the current code does not clearly integrate event allowances with zoning districts or identify preferred locations for events, creating ambiguity in implementation and enforcement. Staff recommends that the City Commission provide policy direction on the identified regulatory gaps and discussion items to support the preparation of draft amendments to the Land Development Regulations for future consideration.

Commissioner Harrison asked what are the associated costs for the permits for things like a bounce house.

Ms. McCoy stated that the costs are determined by the code. There is a \$75 fee for events other than parades or carnivals and then as activities are added on, there may be additional costs for things that require a fire or building inspection.

Former Vice Mayor Mark Spence stated that the information provided by the Fire Chief is not accurate and he is reading from an older code. He stated that the City's is using the latest fire code.

Fire Chief Hackett stated that he is using is the Eighth edition which is the most current.

**C. DISCUSSION REGARDING AWARDED A CONTRACT TO GLORIFIED PRINTING, INC. (DOING BUSINESS AS) MINUTEMAN PRESS AFTER SUCCESSFUL SECOND REBID FOR LAKES NEWS PRINTING AND MAILING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND AND SIXTY TWO DOLLARS AND NINETY THREE CENTS (\$18,062.93) PER QUARTERLY PUBLICATION**

Mr. Piprawala stated that Lakes News is a highly visible City initiative that reflects the City's internal operations, community engagement initiatives, and public-facing communications. In prior years, the City has not had a consistent or standardized approach to establishing expectations, budget, or procurement timelines for this service. As a result, staff has relied on past practices and informal feedback when planning and implementing this initiative. The City issued a solicitation on our OpenGov platform, ITB 26-3410-27B for Lakes News Printing and Mailing (2nd Re-Bid) so as to secure a vendor to provide full-service printing, finishing, addressing, sorting, and mailing services for the City's Lakes News Quarterly Magazine. Services shall include the complete production and mailing of 13,680 total copies per quarter, consisting of: 13,430 copies mailed to Lauderdale Lakes residential and business occupants, and 250 copies delivered to City Hall for internal distribution and surplus inventory. City staff is requesting the award of ITB 26-3410-27B, to Glorified Printing, Inc d/b/a Minuteman Press, for Lakes News Printing and Mailing Services in accordance with the City's Procurement Code, Section 82-356(a)(1), of the Lauderdale Lakes procurement code which allows Competitive sealed bidding (Invitation to Bid). The term of this agreement shall be for a three (3) year term, and may be renewed for an additional two (2) one-year terms, for a total term not to exceed five (5) years. Each renewal of this agreement shall be contingent upon approval by the City and continued satisfactory performance by the Vendor in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Commissioner Harrison inquired as to how many people downloaded the solicitation.

Mr. Piprawala stated that twenty eight vendors downloaded but only one submitted who is now being considered.

Vice Mayor Thomas stated that she hopes that the printing of the magazine is of quality.

Aubyn Lewis, Communications Manager, stated that as part of the solicitation process, the vendors are asked to submit a sample of their work which is then evaluated on by the committee. Also, within the scope a draft copy will be provided before it goes to production.

**D. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF NEW SERVERS FOR THE CITY**

Kurt Brown, Information Technology Manager, stated that the Dell servers currently running our Munis environment have surpassed their expected life cycle. They were released by Dell in September 2014, making them approximately 12 years old. Tyler Technologies has also informed us that our Munis environment requires an upgrade. This infrastructure is critical to the city's daily operations and holds vital information which is essential to the services provided by the city. Due to unprecedented demand, particularly for AI infrastructure and server components, Dell quotes across the industry are now only valid for 14 days, and prices are subject to increase gradually.

Mr. Piprawala stated that City staff is requesting the opportunity with approval from the Mayor and the City Commission in accordance with the City's Procurement Code, to present a proposal in the best interest of the city for an amount to be presented at a subsequent meeting. Once the quote is

given, the City will have fourteen days to respond to secure the pricing.

Commissioner Harrison inquired as to how many servers are needed.

Mr. Brown stated that three servers and a storage array are needed.

#### **E. DISCUSSION REGARDING PLANNING OF THE NEW FIRE STATION**

Mr. Desbrunes stated that in December 2024, the City Commission awarded a contract in an amount not to exceed \$67,745 to CPZ Architects, Inc to provide planning services for the new fire station project. This project is partially funded by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Florida Resilient grant program. The total grant amount is in the amount of \$3,000,000 which requires a city matching fund of \$3,000,000. Planning of the new fire station was centered around the following parameters: long term emergency response needs firefighters future needs; functional requirements and long term operational efficiency zoning and compatibility. As a result, the consultant provided 3 options for consideration. Upon completion of this phase, CPZ Architects, Inc. will provide a full-service proposal to complete the design, permitting, and construction engineering services. Funding Source: This project is partially funded by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Florida Resilient grant program. The total grant amount is in the amount of \$3,000,000 which requires a city matching fund of \$3,000,000. This project is partially funded by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Florida Resilient grant program. The total grant amount is in the amount of \$3,000,000 which requires a city matching fund of \$3,000,000. Currently, the station has three bays which about 50 feet long which is enough to house one engine and the emergency truck. They are very close and there is a risk of injury to the firemen.

BSO Fire Chief Hackett explained the need for a new station that would last 50 years upon been built. He spoke about the health and safety of firefighters and how the added space would help. He spoke of having more sleeping quarters, room for decontamination and the types of doors that would allow the emergency vehicles to depart faster to emergencies.

Mr. Desbrunes explained the three different types of proposed fire stations. The first one is a one story building with four drive through bays that are 70 feet long. There are 14 dorms and the total square footage is approximately 17,000. The cost for this is approximately \$10.5 million. The second option is a three story building with parking under the facility. The bays are 70 feet long and houses offices and the dorm. It is about 21,000 square feet with a cost of \$13 million. The final option is a two story building with a training tower, 70 feet bays, houses offices and the dorm. It is 19,594 square feet and an estimated cost of \$13 million.

Mr. Gusta Santos of CPZ Architects spoke of the challenges with the new fire station may face which includes the overall size of the property, zoning requirements and the staff that are going to be occupying the building. He reviewed each fire station option and advised on the amount of parking space and added general space needed for each.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked if the proposals are for the current fire station site.

Mr. Desbrunes stated that it was and there will be an additional cost for the temporary location which is not included in the price.

Commissioner Harrison asked what other site can be used for the new fire station. He asked about the site opposite Vincent Torres Park.

Mr. Desbrunes stated that property currently belongs to the CRA and response time will have to be a priority in choosing another location.

Commissioner Causwell asked of the urgency for a new fire station.

Chief Hackett stated the current fire station is almost 50 years old and it has deteriorated. He explained the size of the apparatus used, the dangers of backing into the fire station and the

importance of having female accommodations.

Barbara Smith, city resident, stated a new fire station is definitely needed and asked about having community input.

Sharon Haynes, Financial Services Director, stated that in terms of funding for the new fire station, there are two options. One is using the fund balance which is used for funding capital balance. In 2024, the City has approximately \$25 million in the fund balance. The second option is reallocation of the ARPA funds where \$4.7 million was transferred into the capital improvements projects. Some of the funds were used for a drainage project, so there is a balance of \$3.8 million.

Commissioner Harrison asked about using a General Obligation (GO) Bond.

Ms. Haynes stated that the City currently has two GO Bonds and she would recommend paying out those bonds before adding additional bonds.

**F. DISCUSSION REGARDING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND ELEVEN THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,411,347.00) FOR THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC CALMING - VARIOUS LOCATIONS PROJECT**

Mr. Desbrunes stated that on April 23, 2024, the City Commission approved an agreement with FDOT to provide funding in the amount of \$437,143 for design services of the Citywide Traffic Calming – Various Location project. The project consists in the construction and installation of traffic calming devices such as roundabout and speed bumps in several locations throughout the city specifically: on NW 24th Street (Eastgate), NW 34th Street, NW 35th Avenue (Northgate), NW 33rd Street (Westgate), NW 41st Street (Oakland Estates). Kimley-Horn and Associates was retained to provide design services for this project. The final design package has been submitted to FDOT for review and approval. This agreement provides funding in the amount of \$1,411,437 to cover construction as well as engineering inspection cost for this project. This agreement expires on December 31, 2028.

**G. DISCUSSION REGARDING USE OF CITY FACILITIES (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER CAUSWELL)**

Ms. Lockett stated that she surveyed several cities regarding rental facilities for elected officials and commission initiatives. She explained how each city handles applying fees for these events.

Vice Mayor Thomas stated that moving forward fees should be done at a rate applicable to the organization. She believes that the only fees that should be waived are for Home Owners Associations for their meetings.

City Attorney Calloway stated that the City Commission can give direction to staff to request a resolution to update the current fee schedule.

Commissioner Harrison stated he is disappointed that so many people used the City's resources. He also stated that the HOA's should allowed to use the facilities for free and everyone else should pay a portion of the fee rather than it being waived.

Commissioner Causwell stated that she agrees with the HOA's not being charged for using the facilities.

Ms. Lockett stated that staff has reached out to the sororities and they will start paying a rental fee.

Nicole Hall, city resident, stated that use of the public funds in such a way can be deemed unethical.

Commissioner Harrison asked who was the person authorizing the use of the facilities for free.

Ms. Lockett stated that she was instructed by elected officials or the administration provide the facilities for free.

**H. DISCUSSION REGARDING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH OVERTIME FOR STAFF AT CITY COMMISSION INITIATIVE EVENTS (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER CAUSWELL)**

Commissioner Causwell inquired as to the cost of overtime.

Ms. Haynes stated that there was approximately \$8000 paid in overtime for Parks and Human Services staff and approximately \$7500 paid in overtime to Public Works staff for City Commission initiative events.

Commissioner Causwell stated that other cities have a flexible schedule for their staff when assisting on commissioner initiative events.

Ms. Williams stated that a flexible schedule can be accommodated and it can be done through their director or manager.

**I. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CHANGES MADE TO THE FEDERAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROGRAM ENACTED UNDER OPPORTUNITY ZONES 2.0 IN THE ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL OF 2025 AND SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY COMMISSION IN NOMINATING ELEGIBLE CENSUS TRACTS**

Vielka Buchanan, Economic Development Manager, stated that Opportunity Zones (OZ) were created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (OZ-1.0) and are federally designated distressed census tracts designed to encourage investors, businesses, developers, financial institutions, and other investors to reinvest capital gains into these tracts to foster job creation. The benefit is deferral, reduction, and potential elimination of taxes on capital gains, not rebates or grants. Investors receive capital-gains tax incentives when they reinvest through Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs). The One Big Beautiful Bill of 2025 made the program permanent and established Opportunity Zones 2.0 (OZ 2.0), which includes new eligibility criteria, stronger reporting requirements, and revised tax incentives. Summary of Program: Cities and counties' recommendations of census tracts need to be submitted to the Florida Department of Commerce by May 1, 2026. New zones will be nominated by Governors starting July 1, 2026, and qualified by the U.S. Treasury by December 31, 2026, to take effect on January 1, 2027. Hereafter, Zones will be nominated and designated every 10 years. More restrictive eligibility criteria will be applied to qualify new census tracts, including a lower median family income threshold of less than 70% and the elimination of contiguous tracts. OZ-2.0 established additional reporting for OZ funds and businesses, and a two-year overlap period (2027–2028) when both OZ-1.0 and OZ-2.0 maps will be in effect. The goal of the new legislation is to broaden investments to include more operating businesses and rural areas. Investments in rural areas will receive a 30% basis step-up after five years, compared to the standard 10% for non-rural investments.

**J. DISCUSSION REGARDING GRANT APPLICATION TO THE 2025 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (“JAG”) PROGRAM THROUGH THE BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE (BSO) FOR AN ALLOCATION AMOUNT OF TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINE DOLLARS (\$28,809)**

Ms. Heidi Brocks, Budget Officer, stated that the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is a federal funding opportunity administered by the U.S. Department of Justice to support public safety initiatives, including law enforcement, crime prevention, equipment acquisition, and training. The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) serves as the lead agency for JAG fund distribution in Broward County. For the 2025 funding cycle, an allocation of \$28,809 has been identified for potential award. Participation in this program would allow the City to enhance public safety capabilities without impacting the general fund. Eligible uses include acquisition of equipment, support for crime prevention initiatives, or other law enforcement purposes consistent with JAG guidelines. Staff is requesting authorization to submit the grant application, which is due April 28. If awarded, staff will return to the City Commission for approval to accept the grant and execute a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BSO.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked if the license plate readers have been utilized.

Broward Sheriff's Office Captain Warnell Phillips stated that the City is currently using the 2022 JAG grant which allows BSO to be proactive when there are rashes of crime in the city. With the current grant, units are able work overtime to prevent burglaries.

Consensus was made to proceed with a resolution to apply for the grant.

**K. DISCUSSION REGARDING ALIGN AND THRIVE COACHING, LLC'S "BUSINESS CONFERENCE ANNUAL SUMMIT 2026" IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMISSIONER EASTON HARRISON; REQUESTING USE OF THE CITY LOGO AND SPACE (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER HARRISON)**

Commissioner Harrison stated that this is a business and workshop conference proposed to be held on June 20, 2026 at 10 a.m. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness and alignment and activate the raw talents within an individual. He stated that will benefit the community because it would allow people to be more effective in their business. He will be using his annual credit for the space.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked how ill overtime be affected.

Commissioner Harrison stated that volunteers will be used to navigate the event.

**L. DISCUSSION REGARDING GRILL & CHILL: FATHER'S DAY COOKOUT AS A COMMISSIONER INITIATIVE (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER HARRISON)**

Commissioner Harrison stated that this event was done before by a previous commissioner and he would like to continue to the tradition. This is a family event with a bounce house and activities and it will be held at the Vincent Torres parking lot.

Vice Mayor Thomas asked if overtime will be utilized.

Commissioner Harrison stated that overtime can come from his initiative fund and he is also working on partnerships.

**M. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS ON THE HIRING OF THE NEW CITY MANAGER (SPONSORED BY MAYOR EDWARDS PHILLIPS)**

Ms. Williams stated that a survey ran from March 15 to April 3 and was sent to residents for their feedback and input. There were 96 respondents who stated they wanted a City Manager who was strong, decisive, financially disciplined, transparent, accountable and focused on public safety. She stated that she will share the survey results with an updated recruitment brochure in the near future.

**N. DISCUSSION REGARDING ANNUAL COMPENSATION REVIEW FOR THE ACTING CITY MANAGER (SPONSORED BY MAYOR EDWARDS PHILLIPS)**

City Attorney Calloway stated that on March 18, 2025 the City Commission approved a resolution appointing and designating the current acting city manager. The City Commission ultimately determined that it is in the best interest of the City to set the compensation for the acting city manager at the salary and the benefits that were equal to the former city manager. That salary at the time was \$195,374.52 plus a monthly automobile and cell phone allowance as well as applicable group insurance. Consensus was made to move forward with the annual compensation for the acting city manager.

**O. DISCUSSION REGARDING A MOBILE (BUS) MAMMOGRAM EVENT (SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONER MAXWELL-WILLIAMS)**

Commissioner Maxwell-Williams stated that this is a Mobile Mammogram event on May 30, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the City to provide medical services and treatment to uninsured women in the community. The request is for space to park the mobile unit. This is a partnership between Commissioner Maxwell-Williams, Mammolink and Broward County Department of Health.

Commissioner Harrison asked if men were allowed to attend this event for screening.

Commissioner Maxwell-Williams stated that she would find out about screening for men.

**6. REPORTS**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Being that there was no other business to come before the City Commission, the workshop adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

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VERONICA EDWARDS PHILLIPS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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VENICE HOWARD, MMC, CITY CLERK