



**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Tuesday, June 25, 2024
5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR EDMUND MALKOON

Mayor Edmund Malkoon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Randy Strauss, Commissioner Richard DeNapoli, Commissioner John A. Graziano, Commissioner Theo Pouloupoulos, Town Manager Linda Connors, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Ken Rubach, Assistant to the Town Manager Courtney Easley, Development Services Director Jhanelle Campbell, Director of Budget and Finance Lucila Lang, Assistant Finance Director Edner Saint-Jean, and Events and Marketing Manager Katie Anderson.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. INVOCATION

All present observed a moment of silence.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. FY25 Non-Profit Donation Requests

At this time the Town Commission heard brief presentations from representatives of non-profit agencies requesting funds in fiscal year (FY) 2025.

Charlotte Mather-Taylor, representing the Areawide Council On Aging Of Broward County, explained that the Agency plans, coordinates, funds, and advocates for needed services for Broward residents 60 years of age or older and adults aged 18 or older who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease or a related dementia and their caregivers. Information and referral services are available to all callers who reach out for assistance in caring for themselves or on behalf of elders. Callers are provided with resources and are screened for funded services.

The Agency offers programs that help with food assistance, home assistance, medical counseling through the SHINE program and transportation services. The senior centers

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

and day care centers provide services such as recreation, meals, classes and other activities. There are also health and wellness classes. The Agency plans to serve at least 13,325 senior residents in Broward County and at least 10 residents of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

Marjorie Evans, representing Broward Children's Center, stated that this organization has historically served two to three children from Lauderdale-By-The-Sea per year; however, no children from the Town have been served during the current year. Broward Children's Center serves children with multiple handicaps and/or developmental delays. Children assisted by the program may include victims of trauma, accidents, and sports-related accidents.

A representative of the Center for Hearing and Communication stated that this organization has served Broward County for over 40 years, providing comprehensive services to empower individuals affected by hearing loss, deafness, or listening challenges. Their umbrella of services includes after-school and summer programming for students, senior programs, mental health counseling, a full-time audiologist, and amplified telephones.

In Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, the organization's focus is on senior citizens. During the past year, the Center attended a "Boomers and Seniors" Expo at Assumption Church, where they provided 12 hearing screenings and eight individuals received free amplified telephones. The Center seeks to educate members of the community at all ages. All staff members are skilled in American Sign Language (ASL).

Nadine Neree, representing Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County, explained that she is the program director for the organization's financial assistance program. This agency has been in existence since 1960 and has added several programs over the years based on demand from the community. They served two Lauderdale-By-The-Sea clients in FY 2024.

Ms. Neree stated that the greatest need in the community at present is related to increasing rent. Many seniors cannot afford these higher rents. The organization also offers wraparound services, including food provision and mental health services.

Renee Jaffe, representing Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, advised that this organization is the local administrator of both state and federal funds for any early learning-related programs. Their programs include school readiness for vulnerable and economically challenged families. Over 20,000 children per year are served by this

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

program. They also offer a voluntary pre-kindergarten program which serves 14,000 children and provide support and resources to over 750 child-care programs throughout Broward County.

The Early Learning Coalition offers a one-for-one matching program. While the agency does not serve a large number of children from Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, they appreciate any support that can help them to serve children and families.

Marie Hayes, representing 2-1-1 Broward, advised that this organization provided 395 referrals to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea residents in FY 2024. Residents may be calling with a wide range of needs, including food, child care, and mental health services.

2-1-1 Broward provides 24-hour and seven-day phone services. They also serve as the 9-8-8 line for Broward County, which is a suicide hotline. They are continually looking for services that can support the community.

Brian Ginch, representing the Hillsboro Lighthouse Point Preservation Society, stated that this all-volunteer organization works with the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure that the lighthouse in the Hillsboro Inlet area is updated, maintained, and preserved. This historic landmark has existed for 117 years.

The Society offers a monthly tour of the lighthouse once per year. This year's tour is scheduled for November 2024 and is open to any Lauderdale-By-The-Sea resident at no cost. They are asking for slightly more funds in FY 2025 due to required refurbishment of the lighthouse, including replacement of struts and turn buckles as well as exterior painting.

Alessandra Medri, representing South Florida Wildlife Center, explained that this is the largest wildlife center in the state. They serve approximately 200 residents of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea who bring injured wildlife to the Center. There is no charge to the public for the organization's services. In addition to helping injured wildlife, the Center gives presentations at Broward County schools to teach children about safety and conservation.

A representative of Women in Distress of Broward County stated that this organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary in July. She strongly emphasized the need for domestic violence-related services. The organization served two Lauderdale-By-The-Sea residents in FY 2024. Women in Distress provides emergency shelter, crisis

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

intervention services, advocacy, and lethality assessments. They rely on their public partners for support.

A representative of the Woman's Club of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea advised that this organization has been part of the community for 68 years. Their building is in need of hurricane impact-resistant windows as well as foundation work. The Woman's Club donates to local charities and is also a social organization. They participate in multiple Town events, including the Fourth of July parade and Christmas-By-The-Sea.

Marilyn Carr, representing the Garden Club of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, stated that this organization is celebrating its 70th year. Their mission is to educate and beautify. In 2024, the Garden Club donated five trees for Arbor Day. They would like to purchase bronze plaques to identify these trees.

The Garden Club is also working to renew the Memorial Garden in front of Town Hall and would like markers to identify the plants in this garden. They also work with numerous projects, including the Orchid Walk, sand dune replenishment, bio-swales, native plantings, a tree walk, and plaques.

Ina Marjakangas, representing the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Merchants' Association, requested support for the merchants' Shop Small/Support Local platform. The Association was created in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their goal is to bring recognition to the industry as well as to foster communications and support for the Town's merchants.

There are currently 12 members of the Association, most of which are located in the Town's western corridor. Funds provided by the Town are used toward events that benefit both tourists and residents. The Association pays for advertising and have created a shopping map which is available at all Town hotels and the Visitors Center. This year's request includes funds for an eco-friendly gift bag which would be available for purchase from all participating merchants.

Director of Budget and Finance Lucila Lang requested that the Commission review the applications the Town has received and recommend funding amounts to Staff. Mayor Malkoon added that one option is to provide funds on a reimbursement basis rather than through an allocation, but noted that this would not be possible with all applicants.

Commissioner Graziano proposed that the Town provide allocations of similar amounts to all the organizations. He suggested that \$2500 per applicant would be reasonable,

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

pointing out that the Town has many financial obligations it must meet. He added that organizations who do not currently charge dues to their members consider doing so in the future.

Vice Mayor Strauss observed that not all organizations have equal needs, and not all may be able to secure grants from the state or federal government. For this reason, he did not agree with providing \$2,500 across the board. He suggested that the Town also consider contributions in kind, which was done in 2024. The exception would be the Special Olympics, which is a new applicant. Vice Mayor Strauss recommended that this organization be funded at its full requested amount.

Mayor Malkoon asked if the Vice Mayor recommended providing funds on a reimbursement basis or as a straightforward donation. Vice Mayor Strauss repeated that he would like to do what the Town did last year.

Commissioner Pouloupoulos noted that one organization, the Council on Aging, had lowered their request by \$3,000 from the previous year. This would offset much of the \$5,000 increase requested by the Special Olympics. While he acknowledged the good done by the applicant organizations, he felt the total requested increase from \$66,000 in 2024 to \$91,000 in 2025 could become a problem in the future, as requests would most likely increase again the next year.

Commissioner Pouloupoulos also emphasized the Commission's role as stewards of the Town's taxpayer money. For this reason, he asserted that these dollars should go to organizations that help the Town. He also recommended providing the same amounts as in 2024 with the two changes.

It was noted that another applicant that had received \$3,000 the previous year was currently requesting \$15,000 for FY 2025. If 2024 contribution figures were used, this would reduce the total amount by \$12,000.

Commissioner Graziano stated that the Town is not currently in a position to provide the total donation request of \$66,500. While he acknowledged the work done by the applicant organizations, he also pointed out that the money to be donated would be taxpayer money. He reiterated his recommendation to provide \$2,500 to each organization that made a presentation at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner DeNapoli asked if the decision on donations must be made today or should be postponed until further budget discussions are complete. Mayor Malkoon

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

explained that the amount recommended by the Commission would be included in the budget, but can be changed later by the Commission if they wish. Director of Budget and Finance Lang confirmed that any amounts recommended at tonight's meeting are intended to be budget recommendations. These amounts will not be approved until the second budget hearing in September.

Commissioner Pouloupoulos made a motion, seconded by Commissioner DeNapoli, to support the Vice Mayor's request, adding \$5,000 for the new applicant Special Olympics and decreasing the area-wide Council on Aging of Broward County to their requested amount from this year, which is a \$7,000 decrease from last year. Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Graziano dissenting).

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY DISCUSSION

None.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

None.

8. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

14. ORDINANCES 1ST READING

None.

15. ORDINANCES 2ND READING

None.

16. RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

17. QUASI JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor Edmund Malkoon

Mayor Edmund Malkoon

ATTEST:

Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Special Town Commission Meeting
June 25, 2024



7/29/2024 | 3:20 PM EDT

Katrina Adler, Town Clerk