



NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES **MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026**

The City of Lauderhill hosted the meeting of the Northwest Council of Elected Officials on Monday, April 13, 2026 at Veterans Park, 7600 NW 50 Street, Lauderhill, FL 33351.

Elected Officials/Attendees:

Commissioner Sandra Welch
Vice Mayor Sharon Thomas
Commissioner Easton K. Harrison
Commissioner Tycie Causwell
Mayor Denise D. Grant
Vice Mayor Richard Campbell
Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn
Commissioner Sarai “Ray” Martin
Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano
Commissioner Joanne Simone
Mayor Samson Borgelin
Vice Mayor Darrell (Dee) Lewis-Ricketts
Commissioner Neil Kanterman
Deputy Mayor Jacqueline A. Guzman
Assistant Deputy Mayor Latoya S. Clarke
Vice Mayor Dr. Kicia Daniel
Commissioner Hazelle Rogers

Municipality:

City of Coconut Creek
City of Lauderdale Lakes
City of Lauderdale Lakes
City of Lauderdale Lakes
City of Lauderhill
City of Lauderhill
City of Lauderhill
City of Lauderhill
City of Margate
City of Margate
City of North Lauderdale
City of North Lauderdale
City of Parkland
City of Sunrise
City of Sunrise
City of Tamarac
Broward County

Guest Speakers:

Representative Christine Hunschofsky District 95

Lauderhill Administration and Staff:

Kennie Hobbs, City Manager
Sean Henderson, Deputy City Manager/Finance Director
Hans Ottinot, City Attorney
Andrea M. Anderson, City Clerk
Jessica Wilson, Acting Deputy City Clerk
Yolan Todd, Chief of Staff
Michael Calderin, Public Safety Operations Manager/Chaplain

I **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Denise D. Grant welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. She invited all elected officials, guests, and staff to introduce themselves.

Prior to the formal agenda, Mayor Grant acknowledged the recent passing of Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer of the City of Coral Springs, describing her as a colleague of great brilliance and potential whose loss was felt deeply across the region. Lauderdale Chaplain Michael Calderin led the invocation, offered a blessing over the meal, and led a moment of silence in honor of Vice Mayor Metayer.

Mayor Grant then introduced former Commissioner Mike Gelin of the City of Tamarac to offer a tribute. Former Commissioner Gelin shared that he had known Vice Mayor Metayer for nearly a decade, having first met her in 2017. He recounted mentoring and encouraging her through her political career, including hiring her as his legislative aide in Tamarac, and described her as a genuine public servant who was deeply proud of her Haitian heritage and committed to inspiring others. Former Commissioner Gelin expressed profound sadness at her passing and called upon elected officials to take meaningful policy action in her memory—specifically urging greater investment in domestic violence resources, including funding for shelter bed space, and the establishment of programs to educate men on healthier relationship practices. He noted that State Representative Dottie Joseph had personally attempted to use domestic violence hotline referral services and encountered serious gaps, including a lack of available shelter beds.

Chaplain Calderin additionally announced that the Broward Victim Rights Coalition Annual Vigil would be held at the end of the month and that a moment of silence would be observed for Vice Mayor Metayer at that event. He encouraged all attendees to participate.

City Attorney Hans Ottinot also briefly addressed the body, noting the difficulty of speaking about Vice Mayor Metayer, with whom he shared a close personal friendship. He informed the group that an endowment fund had been established in her memory through a GoFundMe platform published by her family. He reported that a Haitian Lawyers Association group had already raised \$10,000 for the endowment and encouraged all attendees to contribute to continuing her legacy.

II **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – **March 9, 2026 - City of North Lauderdale - City of Lauderdale Lakes**
Vice Mayor Causwell moved to approve the Minutes as submitted. Seconded by City of Margate Commissioner Simone. No discussion. **Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.**

III **PRESENTATIONS**

A. A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky (District 95) delivered a legislative update from the recently concluded session in Tallahassee, characterizing it as a difficult session for local governments that saw a return to culture-war legislation and sustained attacks on local authority.

Senate Bill 1434 – Infill Redevelopment: Representative Hunschofsky flagged SB 1434, which passed the legislature and was awaiting the Governor's signature, as a bill of significant consequence for communities in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. The bill allows certain remediated contaminated properties, including brownfields, to be developed for housing at densities matching those of nearby residential areas. Critically, it requires administrative approval of qualifying development applications, preventing local governments from imposing stricter rules to block or limit such redevelopment. The bill also covers unused recreational areas adjacent to single-family homes—such as golf courses—allowing developers to bypass local government authority, provided they pay double recreation impact fees and offer nearby property owners the Northwest Council of Elected Officials, April 13, 2026

opportunity to purchase the recreational space first. Representative Hunschofsky strongly recommended that all member cities consult their city attorneys on the implications of this bill.

Property Tax: Representative Hunschofsky reported that no property tax legislation had been enacted, as the House, Senate, and Governor remained in disagreement. A special session was possible, and the legislature was expected to return to Tallahassee the following week, though the agenda for that session remained uncertain and could involve mid-decade redistricting, the budget, property tax, or result in a brief gavel-in/gavel-out session with no action.

DEI-Related Legislation – Senate Bill 1134: Representative Hunschofsky reported that SB 1134, which she voted against, passed the legislature and awaited the Governor's action. The bill bars counties and cities from funding, promoting, or taking official action related to diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. It renders local DEI policies and programs void and bans public funds from supporting DEI offices, training, or related initiatives. Of particular concern, the bill uses the broad term "cultural" in defining prohibited activities, which Representative Hunschofsky argued could be used to target a wide range of community events, such as Haitian Flag Day celebrations or St. Patrick's Day parades. She noted ongoing dialogue with the Senate bill sponsor in an effort to remove the word "cultural" in a future legislative session. She recommended that city attorneys review the bill's language carefully.

House Bill 1389 – Affordable Housing/Live Local: On a more positive note, Representative Hunschofsky described HB 1389 as a constructive modification to the Live Local Act, strengthening fair housing protections and ensuring that affordable housing projects on city, county, or school board-owned lands can only be pursued under the Live Local Act with the express permission of the respective governmental entity.

House Bill 655 – Public Meetings: This bill was noted as beneficial for local government, allowing a private meeting with opposing counsel following receipt of a Burt Harris Act claim in order to facilitate resolution during the pre-suit notice period.

House Bill 1329 – Local Government Financial Transparency and Accountability: Representative Hunschofsky noted that this bill, which she voted against, passed the legislature but had not yet been signed by the Governor. It imposes additional online budget transparency requirements on local governments, which she argued were already more transparent than state government. She urged staff to review the requirements.

House Bill 1217 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions: This preemption bill passed the legislature and awaited the Governor's signature. It prohibits state and local government entities from adopting or enforcing net-zero policies and bars the use of public funds to support such policies.

House Bill 1085 – Local Government Cyber Security: Representative Hunschofsky highlighted this bill positively, noting that it establishes a local government cyber security protection program administered by Florida Digital Service to assist local governments in mitigating and defending against cyber threats. She encouraged all cities to take advantage of this program.

Open Carry: Representative Hunschofsky informed the body that Florida's Attorney General declined to defend the state's ban on open carry before the Supreme Court, resulting in open carry now being permitted in Florida. She noted that the existing sensitive places statute, which restricts where concealed weapons may be carried, does not address open carry or long guns such as AR-15s. A bill she filed to close this gap by extending the sensitive places provision to all weapons did not receive a hearing in either chamber. She suggested that the only path forward may be through litigation.

Budget Process: Representative Hunschofsky advised that communications between the House and Senate had broken down, particularly over the Speaker's opposition to a "sprinkle" list favored by the Senate President. She indicated that if a budget was not completed by the end of April, it would likely extend to June. She urged all member cities to work closely with their lobbyists and state legislators to ensure that local appropriations remained in the forefront of budget discussions.

Incoming Minority Leader: Representative Hunschofsky announced that she had been named the incoming Minority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives and would be formally sworn in that November. She offered her assistance to all member municipalities and reaffirmed her commitment to Broward County.

Following the presentation, members engaged in a brief question-and-answer period. In regards to open carry in city halls and public facilities beyond the commission chambers, Representative Hunschofsky noted that city attorneys would be the appropriate resource for that question and confirmed that second amendment advocacy groups had so far urged their members to exercise caution and not test the current boundaries. Representative Hunschofsky's leadership was commended and thanked for the DMV mobile unit hosted through her office, which is offered approximately once a month. A question was raised about mid-decade redistricting, to which Representative Hunschofsky responded that the Governor had publicly expressed his intent to move forward, but no maps or data had been shared, and opposition had been voiced by several Republican members of Congress. She characterized the situation as one requiring patience and expecting the unexpected. A question about the likelihood of SB 1434 being signed by the Governor was raised; Representative Hunschofsky indicated it was very likely.

B. CITY OF LAUDERHILL GO BOND

Prior to the presentation on the City of Lauderhill GO Bond, Lauderhill Vice Mayor Richard Campbell provided an update on the FIFA World Cup, noting that it is widely recognized as the largest sporting event in the world and would be held from June 11 through July 18 in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. South Florida is slated to host seven games. Vice Mayor Campbell reported that a Miami-based host committee had reached out to Broward County approximately six months prior to organize coordination efforts and maximize economic opportunities, with projections of \$1.3 billion circulating through the South Florida region during the event.

Vice Mayor Campbell advised the group that Broward County had recently approved \$2 million in funding to prepare for the World Cup and assist cities in hosting related activities, with ten cities having already committed to programming. However, he expressed concern that the mechanism by which these funds would be distributed to individual cities had not been clearly defined at the time of the vote. He noted that County Commissioner Hazelle Rogers had placed a clarifying item back on the Broward County Commission agenda for the following day at 1:30 PM at the County chambers. Vice Mayor Campbell strongly encouraged as many elected officials as possible to attend the next day's commission meeting to advocate for a clear process ensuring that the \$2 million in taxpayer funds would be allocated to and spent in Broward County municipalities rather than absorbed at the county level.

Lauderhill City Manager Kennie Hobbs, Jr. presented an overview of the City of Lauderhill's \$65 million General Obligation Bond, branded as the RISE Lauderhill program, with the theme of "Building Tomorrow's Lauderhill Today." The bond was approved by Lauderhill voters in March 2026, with 74 percent approval for the public safety component and over 70 percent approval for both the infrastructure and parks components—marking the highest approval rates of the city's three GO bond programs to date. The city's first GO bond in 2005 was \$25 million, the second in 2016 was \$35 million, and this third bond reached \$65 million.

City Manager Hobbs emphasized that the bond program was the result of a community-driven, multi-year outreach process beginning approximately two to three years before the vote. The city engaged residents through Northwest Council of Elected Officials, April 13, 2026

annual budget workshops, homeowner association meetings, area-specific presentations, and citywide town halls. All four focus areas—roadways, infrastructure, safety, and environment (parks)—were identified directly from resident input. Of the \$65 million total, approximately \$34 million was dedicated to parks improvements. Department directors, including the police and fire chiefs, were incorporated into community presentations so that residents could hear directly from the relevant subject matter experts, particularly on public safety topics.

City Manager Hobbs highlighted the expansion of the city's license plate reader technology as a key public safety element, noting that neighboring cities including Sunrise, Plantation, and North Lauderdale had implemented similar systems with positive results. He addressed resident privacy concerns by clarifying that the technology is used as a law enforcement tool for solving crimes, not for facial recognition or general surveillance. He cited a specific recent instance in which the license plate reader network helped apprehend a suspect from a Palm Beach incident who was tracked as the vehicle traveled through Lauderhill.

City Manager Hobbs also discussed a mixed-use development project on 14 acres of city-owned land adjacent to the Performing Arts Center along State Road 441, where the city is entering a land-lease arrangement with a developer. The project will include hotel, residential, retail, and open space components, as well as approximately 1,000 parking spaces across three garages. The bond includes additional city investment in parking to accommodate events at the regional park and Performing Arts Center.

With respect to the bond's fiscal structure, City Manager Hobbs explained that the city structured its debt service to maintain level payments, using initial interest-only payments while existing debt from the 2005 bond is retired, after which principal payments would begin. He advised any city interested in a similar program to have their finance director work with a financial advisor to properly model debt service payments.

Following the presentation, members engaged in discussion. City Manager Hobbs confirmed in response to questions that the community outreach process began two to three years before the vote and that staff first presented a general framework to the Mayor and Commission for approval before taking it out to residents. He noted that the commission's openness to the process and residents' sustained engagement were critical to the bond's success.

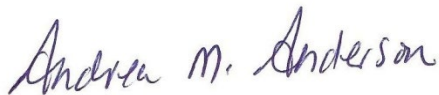
IV Old Business – None

V New Business – None

VI Next Scheduled Meeting – Monday, May 11, 2026 – City of Coconut Creek

VII Adjournment - There being no further discussion, Mayor Grant adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Anderson, MMC
Lauderhill City Clerk