



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: March 24, 2022
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2022-0324R

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
Interim City Clerk Marianne Bowers

Mayor Tooley asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tooley noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present, and explained that, in light of the pandemic, accommodations were made to allow the public to provide advanced comments without the need to attend the meeting. City Attorney Terrill Pyburn explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

1. **RES 2022-049** A RESOLUTION ELECTING A MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM.

Mayor Tooley read the Resolution title into the record.

MOTION: Welch/Railey - To elect Joshua Rydell as Mayor.

With no other nominations on the floor, the Motion carried.

MOTION: Railey/Tooley - To elect Sandra Welch as Vice Mayor.

With no other nominations on the floor, the Motion carried.

Newly-elected Mayor Rydell presented former Mayor Tooley with a plaque for her service as Mayor during the prior year.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Rydell announced a change in the order of presentations, calling Agenda Item 3 next on Agenda.

3. **22-073** A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10-16, 2022, AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK.”

Commissioner Railey read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Police Chief Albert “Butch” Arenal and members of the Police Department Telecommunications team.

2. **22-074** A PRESENTATION TO HONOR POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL ZOMBEK.

Mayor Rydell presented Officer Zombek with a plaque for his years of dedicated service to the City. Police Chief Arenal presented Officer Zombek with the “2020 Customer Service Award” for his commitment to customer service and recognized his many accomplishments. State Representative Christine Hunschofsky thanked Officer Zombek for his service and congratulated him on his retirement.

Following Agenda Item 2, Mayor Rydell recognized Commissioner Lou Sarbone with a plaque for his many years of service to the City and wished him well with his future endeavors. Vice Mayor Welch said that it was a privilege to serve beside him. Commissioner Railey thanked Commissioner Sarbone for his support and said that she would miss him. Commissioner Tooley also thanked Commissioner Sarbone and encouraged him to enjoy time with his family. State Representative Hunschofsky recognized Commissioner Sarbone for his work on the Commission and his commitment to the residents of Coconut Creek.

Commissioner Sarbone thanked everyone for their kind words and thanked his family for sharing him for the last 21 years. He also thanked the residents, the twelve City Commissioners that he served with over the years, and gave a special thanks to “Team Coconut Creek.” He provided some words of wisdom to the Commissioners and quoted the Serenity Prayer.

The Commission took a 21-minute recess and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

4. **22-087** A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM.

Deputy City Manager Sheila Rose shared a *PowerPoint* presentation and explained that the Ambassador Program would achieve the strategies outlined in the City’s Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. She provided a proposed schedule of events and a draft schedule of meetings. She explained that the one-hour monthly meetings would coincide with the first Commission Meeting of the month and noted that once the registration form was finalized, the Program would be advertised via social media.

The Commission provided feedback with support for the program. Deputy City Manager Rose commended Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes for her work on the program. Mayor Rydell suggested developing a business card with the program information that could be distributed by Commissioners to the residents.

INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Interim City Clerk Marianne Bowers stated that no advanced public comments were received for Non-Agenda Items, and no one had signed in to speak.

REGULAR AGENDA

City Clerk

5. **22-056** A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS CITY COMMISSION MEETING(S). (2022-0224WS AND 2022-0224R)

MOTION: Tooley/Railey – To approve the Minutes as presented.

Interim City Clerk Bowers stated that no advanced public comments were received for the item, and no one had signed in to speak.

Upon roll call, the Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

City Commission

6. **ORD 2022-004** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 2, “ADMINISTRATION,” ARTICLE V, “BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES,” DIVISION 1, “GENERALLY,” TO ELIMINATE REFERENCES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD, PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ADVISORY BOARD; AND BY REPEALING DIVISION 4, “ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD,” IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND BY AMENDING DIVISION 5, “LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,” SECTION 2-255, “AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE,” TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF A JOINT AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH BROWARD COUNTY AND OTHER PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES. (SECOND READING)(PUBLIC HEARING)

City Attorney Pyburn read the Ordinance title into the record.

MOTION: Tooley/Welch – To adopt Ordinance No. 2022-004.

Mayor Rydell opened the public hearing. Interim City Clerk Bowers stated that no advanced public comments were received for the item, and no one had signed in to speak. Mayor Rydell closed the public hearing.

Upon roll call, the Ordinance passed by a 5-0 vote.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Brooks thanked Commissioner Tooley for serving as Mayor during the prior year and congratulated newly-elected Mayor Rydell and Vice Mayor Welch. She wished Commissioner Sarbone all the best in his retirement. She thanked him for his leadership and for all the support over the years. She wished all the best to the Sarbone family.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Pyburn thanked Commissioner Tooley and congratulated Mayor Rydell and Vice Mayor Welch. She thanked Commissioner Sarbone for his support over the years and said that it was wonderful to work with him. She wished him all the best.

City Attorney Pyburn summarized the options for filling the vacant Commission seat for District D, explaining that Section 305(c) of the City Charter provided for filling vacancies. She stated that if a vacancy occurs 365 or fewer calendar days before the expiration of the term of the former commissioner, the Commission, by majority vote of the remaining members, shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 30 days of its occurrence, with the appointee serving until the next regular election.

Continuing, City Attorney Pyburn noted that Charter Section 301(b) states that only qualified residents who have resided in the City for a minimum of 12 months shall be eligible for office. She clarified that only residents living in District D can qualify. She noted that the Charter does not provide for a specific method of filling the vacancy. She shared methods used in the past and discussed methods used by neighboring municipalities.

City Manager Brooks said that the Commission had until May 1st to select a replacement. She stated that a notice of vacancy and a questionnaire would be posted on Monday, March 28th and that questionnaires would be accepted for two weeks, from Monday, March 28th to Thursday, April 14th. She added that during the week of April 18th – 21st, the questionnaires would be compiled, distributed, and included in the agenda backup for the Workshop on April 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for candidate review. The candidates would be encouraged to attend the Workshop. She noted that the appointment would be made during the Regular Meeting on April 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Welch asked when the revised questionnaire would be distributed for review, and City Manager Brooks said that it was distributed via email earlier in the evening.

Mayor Rydell suggested that the candidates be able to submit a video or an audio message. He also suggested holding the Workshop earlier if a voluminous number of questionnaires were received.

Commissioner Railey asked for clarification regarding posting of the questionnaire, and City Manager Brooks said that all normal communication methods would be used.

City Attorney Pyburn summarized the discussion, noting there was consensus to move forward with the same selection method followed in 2004 with an advertisement and a questionnaire, and to move forward with the meeting schedule as proposed by City Manager Brooks.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Sarbone congratulated newly-elected Mayor Rydell and Vice Mayor Welch and thanked Mayor Tooley for her service as Mayor. He was in favor of the process to fill the vacancy. He thanked everyone and commented that it had been a great run.

Commissioner Tooley attended the Women's Club Craft Fair and said that it was better than she had seen in many years. She also presented a Proclamation for the new female Rabbi Goldsmith at Temple Beth Am. She said that other municipalities participated as well. She also attended the Farmer's Market and said that it was nice to see the large crowd. Finally, she congratulated newly-elected Mayor Rydell and Vice Mayor Welch.

Commissioner Railey wished Commissioner Sarbone the best and said that it had been an amazing run. She thanked Commissioner Tooley for her service as Mayor and said that she represented the City well. She congratulated Mayor Rydell and Vice Mayor Welch. She stated that this was a great City, and everyone should be proud to be here. She attended the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduation and said the kids were amazing and very enthusiastic. She also spoke highly of the Women's Club event. Commissioner Railey spoke about her tours of the Sustainable Development, Police, and Fire Rescue Departments and commented that it was amazing what it takes to run a city.

Vice Mayor Welch wished all the best to the Sarbone family. She thanked Commissioner Tooley for serving as Mayor and said it was a busy year. She also thanked Mayor Rydell and said she was looking forward to serving together. She commented that she was fortunate to live in and to serve the City.

Mayor Rydell thanked Commissioner Tooley for her service as Mayor. He commented that as the incoming Mayor, he would like to focus on small businesses, and public relations efforts for local businesses and restaurants. He thanked staff for the planning and work on the commission vacancy. He stated that he had received positive feedback for the Police Department’s bike patrol. He commented that he would like to invite the new Margate Chief of Police to the “Do The Right Thing” ceremony.

Commissioner Tooley briefly discussed speeding concerns and asked for more motorcycle patrol.

Mayor Rydell once again gave a special thanks to the Sarbone family.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date