



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 28, 2016
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Workshop Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belvedere called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Mikkie Belvedere
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
City Manager Mary C. Blasi
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

1. DISCUSSION OF TWO SURTAX (SALES TAX) OPTIONS PROPOSED IN BROWARD COUNTY.

Mayor Mikkie Belvedere opened the discussion on the two sales tax options proposed for Broward County. City Manager Mary C. Blasi introduced James Cromar, Director of Planning for the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to provide an overview of the two options.

Mr. Cromar explained the MPO's role to educate the public on the proposed surtax options and began a *PowerPoint* presentation. He stated the purpose of the surtax is to address transportation needs in Broward County. He explained the MPO is responsible for the distribution of state and federal transportation funds and charged with developing a long range plan as part of the effort to identify area needs. The MPO's long range plan identifies over \$1 billion in unfunded transportation needs over the next twenty-five years. Mr. Cromar stated the MPO analyzed potential funding sources to address the unmet needs and used public surveys to gauge support for various options. He stated the most likely source to generate the needed transportation funds would be a surtax, or sales tax, with mechanisms already in place at the state level to collect and distribute the funds.

He noted the two surtax options being considered include a transportation surtax and an infrastructure surtax. He explained the transportation surtax can be used for transportation purposes and for the operation and maintenance of the transit system. This option can only be authorized by the County and requires a majority vote by the voters at the ballot. He stated there has been discussion that under the transportation surtax option, the County would retain seventy percent of the collected funds for operations and distribute thirty percent to the municipalities. Mr. Cromar explained the local government infrastructure surtax option could be placed on the ballot by action of the County Commission or by a vote of fifty percent plus one of the Commissions representing the population of Broward County. Funds from the infrastructure surtax option would be distributed by a statutory formula, sixty percent to the municipalities and forty percent to the County. Mr. Cromar stated that under the transportation surtax option Coconut Creek may expect to receive \$2.88 million in the first year, dependent upon negotiations with the County through an interlocal agreement; under the infrastructure surtax option, Coconut Creek may expect to receive \$5.74 million in the first year, with the City deciding how to spend the funds. Mr. Cromar advised that the MPO is working towards a May 31,

2016, deadline to finalize which option will be moving forward to a November 2016 ballot. He advised that the County Commission voted 7-2 in favor of the transportation surtax, and the MPO will have an emergency meeting on May 5, 2016, to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.

City Manager Blasi provided a summary of how the two options would affect Coconut Creek. She reiterated the proposed funding distributions discussed by Mr. Cromar. City Manager Blasi distributed a draft interlocal agreement from Broward County that would be required to receive funding under the transportation surtax option and explained that the agreement would have to be approved by the May 31 deadline. She discussed the eligible expenses under the two surtax options and noted that there is enough support from municipalities to move forward with the infrastructure surtax option. Discussion ensued regarding the financial impacts of the surtax options. Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell asked if the County has committed to voter education and outreach to get the surtax passed. Mr. Cromar stated there are limited funds available for outreach. Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley asked for clarification of whether or not both surtax options would be on the ballot. Mr. Cromar stated that, based on current discussions at the MPO, most likely only one surtax proposal would be on the ballot. Discussion ensued regarding the County's support for the transportation surtax and the responsibility of identifying community needs and outreach efforts. City Manager Blasi referenced the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Program that identifies projects eligible for funding with the infrastructure surtax. She provided a draft resolution in support of the infrastructure surtax and asked for consensus to place the Resolution on the May 12, 2016, Commission Meeting Agenda. Consensus was given. City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn noted that the City can educate residents on the benefits and drawbacks of the surtax options but not advocate a position. Discussion ensued regarding education efforts. Mr. Cromar advised that the May 12, 2016, MPO meeting would be the last meeting for a decision to be made on the proposals. Mayor Belvedere asked for consensus from the Commission in support of the infrastructure surtax at the MPO Meeting. City Attorney Pyburn clarified consensus was not needed because consensus was already given for Mayor Belvedere to serve on the MPO.

2. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF FY17 BUDGET.

City Manager Blasi explained the purpose of the discussion was to obtain input from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Budget and noted this was the first of five meetings regarding the FY17 Budget. She stated the first public input meeting would be held May 18, 2016, with a Commission Budget Workshop in August and two public hearings in September.

Commissioner Tooley commented about providing an additional police officer on motor when the Department is fully staffed. She stated the gymnasium at the Community Center needs more wall padding. Commissioner Tooley commented that *CreekTV* is only available on Comcast and suggested working with other cable providers to make *CreekTV* available. She agreed that the website should be regularly updated to be user-friendly and provide more information. City Manager Blasi noted that staff has been working to increase public relations efforts with contractual help to expand outreach efforts. Discussion ensued regarding area cable providers and outreach efforts.

Commissioner Welch commented on the existing program modification regarding the City's webpage and requested the City's homepage header format, photos, and videos be changed and reviewed on a regular basis to provide current and new information. She recommended the following new priorities:

- Increase involvement with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage greater participation;
- Initiate recycling program with commercial businesses;
- Change in the format of the Advisory Board Appreciation event;
- Increase business code enforcement to address overgrown lots on major artery lots;
- Update SRO Police Cars with vehicle wrap;
- Provide a community garden and farmers market;

- Incorporate a parade in the 50th Anniversary Celebration to engage the community;
- Display historical information gathered for the 50th Anniversary at Donaldson Park and Windmill Park;
- Pursue AARP Age-friendly Community Certification;
- Initiate solar roof installation at City Hall;
- Complete a traffic signal study at Cullum Road and Lyons Road;
- Provide monthly director presentations at Commission Meetings on Department initiatives;
- Conduct Creek TV interviews with Commissioners and Department staff;
- Expand Government Week Presentations; and
- Initiate a bike share program.

Commissioner Sarbone commented about the ERP initiative to provide an integrated Citywide software package and inquired if it can be moved to a higher priority. Discussion ensued regarding the status of the project. He requested funding be provided for educating and expanding staff regarding code enforcement efforts. Commissioner Sarbone commented about expanding the Community Relations staff and promotion of the City.

Vice Mayor Rydell agreed with Commissioner Sarbone regarding code enforcement education. He also commented about increasing public relations outreach efforts. He commented about hiring a dispatcher to answer the Police non-emergency phone until there are corrections with the E911 regional system. He recommended the City initiate a civil citation program for misdemeanor offenses. He commented about providing a farmers market with City integration and public relation outreach. Vice Mayor Rydell inquired about the status of water meter automation. City Manager Blasi stated the technology is costly and, based on a cost benefit analysis, it was determined to wait until the cost of the technology decreases. Vice Mayor Rydell stated he would like to see the initiative have a higher priority. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Belvedere thanked staff for their efforts in compiling the budget information. She commented about adding more traffic signal mast arms throughout the City. She asked that the road reflector pavement markers on Lyons Road be replaced. Mayor Belvedere stated she would like to see utility box wrapping used on the electrical boxes to help beautify the City. She commented about moving forward with Equestrian Park, inquired about resolving the parking related to the building expansion for Utilities and Engineering, and agreed that water meter automation and increased public relations efforts be a priority. She commented about including cultural events in the 50th Anniversary celebrations, continuing the cultural series, and including classical music in the series. She agreed with Commissioner Welch about providing historical displays at the parks. She commented about hosting a book fair, and she inquired about installing more lighting at the library entrance on Coconut Creek Parkway.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Transcribed by Marianne Bowers

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated