



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida**

**Date: February 23, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Commission Workshop**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Belvedere called the meeting to order at 6:03 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

ALSO PRESENT:

Karen M. Brooks, Assistant City Manager/Finance & Administrative Services Director
Albert "Butch" Arenal, Police Chief
Jim Berkman, Public Works Director
Jean Dupuis, Utilities Assistant Director
Osama Elshami, Utilities and Engineering Director
Jeffery Gary, Fire Marshal
Bernadette Hughes, Assistant to the City Manager
Pam Kershaw, Human Resources Director
Francisco Porras, Information Technology Chief Information Officer
Sheila Rose, Sustainable Development Director

DISCUSSION – FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

City Manager Blasi opened the item and introduced Greg Burns from Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc., who was present to give an overview of the legislative priorities. Bernadette Hughes, Assistant to the City Manager, provided a summary of the development of the 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda.

Mr. Burns discussed what was happening in Washington D.C. with the new administration and began reviewing the following items on the City's 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda:

- *Landfill Regulations* – The City supports federal regulations that create stricter environmental standards and testing for municipal solid waste landfills, and subsequently reduce landfill emissions. The City opposes efforts to weaken landfill and coal ash regulations. The City desires to monitor the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementation of the coal ash provisions in the WIIN Act, as well as

Congressional and Administration action with regard to the repeal of rules related to solid waste landfills.

Discussion ensued regarding changes to regulations on coal ash.

- *Energy Exploration* – The City opposes relaxation of the prohibition against leases on permits for drilling oil or gas wells within the boundaries of Florida’s territorial seas; legislation that would prevent the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from blocking requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida’s coast; seismic surveying within the Everglades, surrounding critical areas, or any other federal lands; and efforts to ease restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas extraction activities.

Mr. Burns commented that it was anticipated that the new administration would be supportive of increased energy exploration and more lenient on federal regulations related to energy exploration. He discussed changes to the leadership at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and noted that Congressman Matt Gates had introduced a bill to eliminate the EPA.

- *Florida DEP Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria Rulemaking* – The City opposes the Florida DEP rulemaking to set new Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria.

Mr. Burns stated that a lawsuit had been filed to challenge the State of Florida’s petition to the EPA to set new water quality criteria, and no action had been taken by the EPA on the request pending resolution of the lawsuit.

- *Waters of the United States and Regulatory Reform* – The City desires to monitor activity related to the implementation of the EPA’s rule on Waters of the U.S. and activity related to regulatory reform.
- *Healthcare Reform* – The City desires to monitor efforts to repeal/replace or amend the Affordable Care Act and changes to Medicare. The City supports the repeal of the excise tax on high-cost health insurance plans (a.k.a. the Cadillac tax) within the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Burns spoke about potential changes to healthcare and Medicare regulations.

- *Mental Health Care Initiatives to Reduce Gun and Other Violence* – The City supports legislation that bans high-capacity assault weapons; legislation that restricts the sale of firearms and requires thorough background checks and licensing; and legislation that responsibly expands treatment options for the mentally ill.

Mr. Burns noted that a bill passed last year that contained renewal of numerous mental health and substance abuse programs. Discussion ensued regarding the bill.

- *School Vouchers* – The City opposes federal efforts to expand school voucher programs.

Mr. Burns stated that school vouchers would not likely be a top priority of Congress this year.

- *Infrastructure Investment* – The City supports new federal investment in infrastructure and any and all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek’s infrastructure priorities.

Mr. Burns spoke about funding for infrastructure investment and said it was not likely for Congress to deficit spend on infrastructure improvements. He spoke about a proposal for tax reform to generate funding for infrastructure, but stated that there was no firm plan in place.

- *Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Planning Area Reform* – the City desires to monitor implementation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform rule by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.

Mr. Burns stated that the U.S. Department of Transportation was looking to consolidate MPOs to implement a regional approach to planning and noted that it would decrease local decision-making authority and issues specific to the community.

- *Domestic Discretionary Spending Pressure* – The City desires to monitor proposed cuts to non-defense discretionary programs of importance to the City of Coconut Creek.

Mr. Burns explained that the new administration wants to increase spending on defense, which would decrease funding for domestic spending. He discussed proposed changes to disaster mitigation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which would put a higher burden on local government. He said the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget was expected to be released in April.

- *Tax Exempt Bonds* – The City opposes legislation that would threaten the tax exemption on state and local bonds, including a 28 percent cap on tax-exempt municipal bonds.

Mr. Burns mentioned that tax deductions would likely be limited, which would force higher rates of interest.

Vice Mayor Rydell asked to monitor the federal government’s response to states’ legalization of medical marijuana and the use of local law enforcement to enforce immigration laws. Discussion ensued regarding the federal government’s position on sanctuary cities, medical marijuana, and the national debt.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Transcribed by Marianne Bowers

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated