



## CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center  
4800 W. Copans Road  
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: September 9, 2021  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting No. 2021-0909WS

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley called the meeting to order at 6:03 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

### ALSO PRESENT:

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes  
State Senator Tina Polsky (District 29)  
State Representative Christine Hunschofsky (District 96)  
Dave Ericks, Ericks Consultants  
Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants

Mayor Tooley noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present, and explained that the meeting material was available online and the meeting was being broadcast live on the City's website and YouTube channel.

### DISCUSSION – PRE-STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes introduced guests and provided a brief overview of the meeting, which was scheduled as an opportunity to speak with representatives about Coconut Creek's priorities for the upcoming legislative session. She stated there were several funding opportunities staff planned to pursue along with the lobbyists at Ericks Consultants, including water projects, appropriations projects, and another program offering a combination of State and Federal funding. Ms. Hughes noted she was working with Budgets and Grants Manager Kisha Holland and the Department Directors to pull applications together and would provide updates to the Commissioners as they were available.

Ms. Hughes shared that staff concerns going into the legislative session were largely the same as they were last year, with Home Rule being the top concern. She noted a number of bills passed last year that preempted Home Rule, and the trend was expected to continue this year. She stated staff and guests would like to hear from each of the Commissioners regarding their legislative concerns and explained that information would be integrated into the legislative agenda document. Ms. Hughes discussed the City's approach regarding unfavorable legislation, which would include offering alternate language for bills and, upon request from legislators, collecting letters from residents directly impacted by legislation and submitting them as a package to legislators.

Senator Tina Polsky introduced herself and spoke briefly about her first year in office for District 29. She stated because of redistricting, she would be up for reelection in 2022, and noted redistricting would be an

item to watch. She briefly reviewed her committee assignments and discussed the Home Rule issues that had come before those committees.

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky thanked the Commission for inviting their representatives to speak ahead of the session, not just after the session. She discussed the attacks on Home Rule and the importance of experience at the local level in order to understand it. She stated she had been told redistricting would take over the conversation for most of the session and discussed other issues she would have her eye on, including vacation home rentals.

Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants, stated the State financial outlook was brighter than expected, and asserted legislators tend to focus more on budget projects during election years. She noted staff would be playing a lot of defense during the session and reiterated that further attacks on Home Rule were expected. She discussed additional issues coming up, including:

- Reform of the Florida Retirement System (FRS);
- Sovereign immunity;
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) reduction;
- Vacation rentals;
- Resiliency;
- Cyber security;
- Single-use plastics;
- Grant opportunities (working with Federal partners);
- Back the Blue initiative; and
- Sober homes.

Dave Ericks, Ericks Consultants, expanded on the redistricting discussion. He stated south Florida voices were largely not at the table and encouraged the Commission to keep an eye on the issue.

Senator Polsky commented further on the single-use plastic study, and explained it was a good example of how to move an important issue forward.

Commissioner Sarbone asked about tribal bank gains, and Ms. Jackson and City Attorney Pyburn responded briefly regarding the status of the Compact between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida and pending legal action.

Commissioner Welch commented on the single-use plastic issue and producer responsibility. She thanked Senator Polsky for her leadership on the issue. Senator Polsky spoke about various bills and advocacy related to the plastic pollution issue.

Commissioner Welch stated the same issues which had been priorities last year continued to be priorities and asked the legislators to keep Coconut Creek in mind when considering issues as they come up.

Commissioner Railey asserted the concern of residents she represents was landfill regulations for Monarch Hill. She stated waste-to-energy was something that needed to be worked on and fought for. Commissioner Railey added that the proposed Florida Turnpike expansion was also a big issue, as it would be right in their backyard and would ruin quality of life for local residents, especially senior citizens.

Vice Mayor Rydell addressed the landfill briefly, stating he had recently learned that the local landfill takes in asbestos from other countries due to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) rollbacks of parameters. He asked that if there was a related bill, that he would appreciate activism to make parameters stricter and to protect communities.

Vice Mayor Rydell stated the judicial system was backed up, and south Florida could use more judges to provide better access to courts. He noted there was a bill that would have repealed the no-fault PIP system which had bipartisan support and was later vetoed by the Governor. Vice Mayor Rydell asserted it was a bad bill that would impact residents and stated he would be willing to advocate on the issue if it

were to come up again. Representative Hunschofsky explained she had done her homework and voted no on the bill.

Continuing, Vice Mayor Rydell briefly addressed deliverables in the lobbying contract. He stated Ericks Consultants had been an asset to the community for a long time. He addressed the likelihood of a reproductive rights bill coming before the legislature in the coming session.

Mayor Tooley stated she would continue to watch the session carefully and reach out to the legislators as issues came up. She thanked Representative Hunschofsky and Senator Polsky for representing Coconut Creek well.

Representative Hunschofsky thanked the City for being good partners and for being proactive.

Senator Polsky echoed the sentiment regarding being proactive, and stated the local expertise was invaluable. She encouraged the Commissioners to reach out with concerns.

Mr. Ericks stated his group represents a number of cities, and Coconut Creek was among the most active.

Vice Mayor Rydell commented on a policy issue at Broward County regarding a half cent tax for preventative health that could use additional activism. He stated he would be addressing the issue during the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Tooley asked when committee meetings were scheduled to start. Senator Polsky responded that meetings were set to begin on September 20.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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Marianne Bowers, CMC  
Interim City Clerk

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Dated