



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

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

**Date: December 20, 2023
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2023-1220WS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rydell called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Joshua Rydell
Vice Mayor Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
Commissioner John A. Brodie
Commissioner Jeffrey R. Wasserman
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

ALSO PRESENT:

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky
Candice Ericks, Ericks Consulting
Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consulting
James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates (via Zoom)
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates

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

Mayor Rydell noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present. Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes opened the discussion. She introduced the elected officials and lobbyists who were present and discussed challenges and successes over the past year, including applying for and receiving \$1.9 million in State and Federal appropriations. Ms. Hughes outlined the City's legislative strategy for the upcoming year and provided a brief overview of the evening's Workshop format.

DISCUSSION – 2024 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

State Representative Christine Hunschofsky thanked the staff, elected officials, and lobbyists for the partnership she had with Coconut Creek. She noted the relationship was a help in understanding concerns and areas where she could advocate for appropriations. She discussed Governor Ron DeSantis' proposed budget and noted that issues with the Live Local Act and condominium law were being reviewed. She acknowledged that property insurance was at the top of everyone's minds and advised that, in addition to new carriers coming into the marketplace, Governor DeSantis proposed waiving the property tax insurance. She discussed the special session briefly.

Candice Ericks, Ericks Consulting, the City's State Lobbyist, reiterated the appreciation for the relationship with the City and recognized Representative Hunschofsky and Senator Tina Polsky for their dedication and hard work. She shared that they had been in Tallahassee since September and provided a snapshot of efforts in advance of the session starting in January.

Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consulting, introduced Shayna Cohen with Senator Polsky's office. She shared that while Senator Polsky had been unable to attend, she had spoken with her on the phone and the Senator had asked her to express her eagerness to work with the City and hear feedback.

Ms. Jackson advised that a lot of the issues on the State Legislative Agenda were the same as they had been in 2023. She discussed proposals related to condominium law, including state assistance for those adversely affected, and concerns over property insurance. She stated the next Speaker of the House planned to take up property issues as a major area of focus, and noted they would be watching to see if bills that have been filed would be taken up in this session. She outlined a change in position on property tax caps for taxpayer-funded public buildings and the addition of enterprise funds, residential permitting, and private provider legislation to the State Legislative Agenda.

Ms. Jackson provided an update on a suggestion from Commissioner Wasserman related to support for emergency threat training in teacher certification. She stated legislation had been filed this week in the House and Senate and commented that it could be added to the State Legislative Agenda if there was support from the rest of the Commission to do so.

DISCUSSION – 2024 PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates, the City's Federal Lobbyist, reviewed the updated draft Federal Legislative Agenda and discussed efforts to look for opportunities for Federal funding for the City over the past year. He highlighted key issues, including outstanding appropriations bills, prioritization of body-worn cameras, and regulatory issues involving the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He thanked Vice Mayor Welch for bringing the C-14 Basin Flood Resiliency Study to their attention and discussed plans to follow the study closely and advocate on behalf of the City to make sure their interests were clearly addressed.

Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates, complimented Ms. Hughes on bringing the State and Federal teams together for discussion of priorities. He discussed funding opportunities being pursued, including rebates for sustainability projects and development partnerships.

Mayor Rydell acknowledged the issues residents were having with insurance and asked about mandating insurance carriers to have a certain amount of property coverage. Representative Hunschofsky stated this had been brought up as an amendment repeatedly and was never accepted by leadership. Discussion continued regarding amendments and comprehensive bills entered, as well as reinsurance rates and risk.

Mayor Rydell noted efforts toward expansion of women's healthcare that Representative Hunschofsky had shared with him. Representative Hunschofsky provided additional details. She commented on Medicaid determinations and asked that anyone having an issue reach out to her office. Ms. Jackson highlighted the Live Healthy initiative in the State Senate.

Mayor Rydell commented on the BIA issue and stated the City Attorney was following it closely. Mr. Glenn stated that Coconut Creek was a leader on the issue.

Vice Mayor Welch noted the rising insurance costs also impacted renters and shared a story from a resident who had called her regarding an \$800 increase in their mobile home rent. She recognized the City's legislators were working hard for the residents. She asked about the appropriations bills on the Federal level, and discussion ensued briefly.

Vice Mayor Welch asked for clarification on Florida receiving funds from the Inflation Reduction Act. Mr. Glenn explained briefly, and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Welch commented on the C-14 Basin study and asked about opportunities for proactive work

on local, internal canals in anticipation. Mr. Crum discussed work with the Army Corps of Engineers and ensuring local canals were considered. Mr. Glenn added comments regarding the efforts of Senator Marco Rubio on flooding.

Vice Mayor Welch asked that the team be on the look out for State and Federal funding for the Fire Administration building in MainStreet. Mr. Glenn advised that they had spoken at length with staff on the issue, and there were some ideas that would be pursued.

Mayor Rydell sought and received consensus to add Commissioner Wasserman's suggestion related to support for emergency threat training in teacher certification to the State Legislative Agenda.

Commissioner Railey shared that a resident had brought her an article from the Sun-Sentinel about windstorm insurance coverage and bills related to reductions in condominium insurance. She asked what chance the bills had of success. Representative Hunschofsky stated she did not know how much of an appetite there was with leadership for anything dealing with property insurance, as they were hearing that they wanted to wait to see what would play out from what had previously been done. She noted that it was the number one (1) issue coming up at town halls across the state.

Commissioner Railey noted the condominium reserves funding was also a top issue. Representative Hunschofsky explained that bill would have another glitch fix and discussed some of the related issues. She encouraged residents to send example budgets so she had documentation to share with leadership.

Commissioner Railey commented on healthcare for seniors, and asked if there was anything that could be done to bring some relief. Representative Hunschofsky discussed issues of inflation and worker shortage. Ms. Jackson stated she would share a synopsis of the Living Healthy legislation. Mr. Glenn noted recent Federal legislation regarding prescription drug prices.

Mayor Rydell sought and received consensus to add support for affordable senior healthcare to both legislative agendas.

Commissioner Brodie asked that the legislative agenda materials be provided earlier in the future. He highlighted Senate Bill 426 and stated he wanted to make sure the benefit for firefighters stays on everyone's radar. He encouraged everyone to take part in Broward Days, noting his first experience there was an eye opener. Mayor Rydell stated he was not a fan of Broward Days because of the feel-good events and asserted he believed they could be more effective by going during a less busy time.

Commissioner Wasserman asked about legislation related to Homeowners Association (HOA) accountability and monitoring. Representative Hunschofsky advised there had been a bill in the last session, which would be brought back this session. She noted it was seen as too aggressive and did not make it across the finish line. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Wasserman noted the recent discussion of paid family leave, and inquired as to whether there was anything to allow changes on the State level to trickle down to municipalities. Representative Hunschofsky explained that municipalities could make that monetary decision individually.

Commissioner Wasserman asked that something be added to the position regarding charter schools that the need for charter schools be a factor of consideration. He stated there were a lot of public schools and enrollment was going down. Ms. Jackson advised that advance notice to local governments of charter school sites has been in the Legislative Agenda for some time. Vice Mayor Welch provided additional clarification.

Commissioner Wasserman commented on initiatives to increase high school graduation rates and suggested encouraging the accelerated track. Ms. Jackson stated that was something she could keep an

eye on. Discussion continued briefly. Representative Hunschofsky commended the City on its support for local schools, noting the value of the Lunch Bunch program.

City Manager Brooks explained that the final Legislative Agendas for approval would be coming before the Commission at the second meeting in January so there was time to incorporate feedback. Mayor Rydell asked that the agendas be addressed in separate meetings, and consensus was to address the State Legislative Agenda at the January 25 Commission meeting and the Federal Legislative Agenda at the February 8 Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date