

**NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING – MAY 13, 2024**

**Host City:** Coconut Creek

**Meeting Location:** Coconut Creek Community Center  
1100 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33063

<b>Present:</b>	Mayor Sandra L. Welch	Coconut Creek
	Vice Mayor Jackie Railey	Coconut Creek
	Commissioner John A. Brodie	Coconut Creek
	Commissioner Joy Carter	Coral Springs
	Mayor Ken Thurston	Lauderhill
	Vice Mayor Ray Martin	Lauderhill
	Vice Mayor Mark Anthony Spence	Lauderdale Lakes
	Commissioner Tycie Causwell	Lauderdale Lakes
	Mayor Tommy Ruzzano	Margate
	Vice Mayor Arlene Schwartz	Margate
	Commissioner Antonio Arserio	Margate
	Commissioner Anthony Caggiano	Margate
	Commissioner Joanne Simone	Margate
	Mayor Samson Borgelin	North Lauderdale
	Vice Mayor Darrell (Dee) Lewis-Ricketts	North Lauderdale
	Mayor Rich Walker	Parkland
	Vice Mayor Jordan Isrow	Parkland
	Commissioner Ken Cutler	Parkland
	Commissioner Bob Mayersohn	Parkland
	Commissioner Dr. Kicia Daniel	Tamarac
	City Manager Sheila N. Rose	Coconut Creek
	City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn	Coconut Creek
	Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes	Coconut Creek
	Executive Assistant Maureen DeLaunay	Coconut Creek
	Lauren Jackson	ECI/TSE Consulting
	Daniel Delagrance	ECI/TSE Consulting

**1. Call to Order**

Coconut Creek Mayor Sandra Welch called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2024 – Hosted by the City of Lauderdale**

A correction to Margate Vice Mayor Arlene Schwartz's name was noted.

**MOTION:** Mayor Ken Thurston/Commissioner Anthony Caggiano – To approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 meeting as amended.

**In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

### **3. Legislative Session Update – Ericks Consultants, Inc.**

Mayor Welch introduced Coconut Creek's lobbying firm, Ericks Consultants, Inc.

Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants, Inc. and TSE Consulting, provided an overview of the legislative session which adjourned on March 8, advising it had been a very active session. She discussed the main priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, the Live Healthy Initiative, focusing on workforce shortages in the healthcare sector. She highlighted the funding of the Innovation Council to award grants to entrepreneurs looking to innovate in technology. She advised that House Speaker Paul Renner's top priority had been social media and minors.

Ms. Jackson stated the rest of the Senate President's priorities were local government focused, including a bill that passed by a narrow margin which changes the regulatory scheme of short-term rentals while still preempting local regulations. She discussed changes to legislation from the last session which created a shorter path for challenges against preemption and required business impact statements to be prepared for local ordinances, inclusions in the Live Local Act glitch bill, and negotiation regarding sovereign immunity caps.

Ms. Jackson acknowledged that property insurance is a big issue in the State at the moment and noted there had not been a bill passed this session, as the Senate had decided to wait to see the effects of previous legislation before taking further action. She shared related bills had taken secondary homes off the eligibility list for Citizens Insurance, reduced the insurance premium tax by 1.7 percent, and increased funding to the My Florida Home program with prioritization of seniors and low-income residents. She advised that Representative Christina Hunschofsky had also introduced legislation which created a \$30 million pilot My Florida Condo project.

Ms. Jackson reviewed the \$900 million tax package with \$235 million in recurring tax relief passed unanimously, including:

- Sales Tax Holidays
- Deduction on Insurance Premium Taxes
- Expansion of Property Tax Benefits for Renewable Energy
- Creation of Child Care Business Tax Program

Continuing, Ms. Jackson discussed the Condo Reform 3.0 bill, advising that a number of provisions did not make it into the final adoption and the focus was largely on ethics reform. She discussed an inclusion in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) package which expressly preempts all municipal infrastructure regulation on electric vehicle charging stations. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Jackson reviewed legislation related to schools, including three (3) bills addressing deregulation of public schools (Learn Local) and a school safety bill. She shared that cost-of-living adjustments for those who joined the Florida Retirement System (FRS) after 2011 had not passed, noting this was the number one (1) priority for firefighters and was expected to be a topic of discussion again in the next session. She discussed two (2) proposed Constitutional Amendments dealing with Homestead exemption, explaining

an annual CPI adjustment had passed, but a second bill increasing the overall amount of the deduction had not. She advised the amendment would be on the ballot in November.

Ms. Jackson and Daniel Delagrade answered questions regarding Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation, noting the Association of Counties was heavily involved in advocacy on the topic. Mr. Delagrade pointed out Broward County had a PACE discussion item on their May 21 agenda. Discussion continued regarding protections from predatory service providers.

Ms. Jackson reviewed legislation related to building regulation, including:

- Expedited approval of residential building permits
- Time limits on review of permits
- Provision for shorter time to respond to private providers
- Building Code enforcement fee revenue can be used to upgrade technology used to enforce the Building Code

Ms. Jackson asked that any issues related to these changes be documented so they can be brought to the attention of legislators.

Ms. Jackson answered a question regarding the Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping bill, noting that in addition to making public sleeping illegal, it creates a civil cause of action process, authorizes local governments to issue permits for an approved temporary area. She noted the League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties are planning workshops on the legislation implications and implementation. Discussion ensued regarding Counties creating encampments within municipalities, potential options for outsourcing an encampment, and the origins of the legislation.

#### 4. **Old Business**


None.

#### 5. **New Business**

Coconut Creek City Manager Sheila Rose shared a letter Mayor Welch had written to the Solid Waste Authority Executive Committee regarding the proposed landfill expansion and reviewed the City's position briefly.

#### 6. **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Welch adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC, City Clerk  
City of Coconut Creek

