



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

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

**Date: September 14, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2020-0914SP
First Budget Hearing**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sarbone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lou Sarbone (virtually)
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere (virtually)
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch (virtually)
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
Assistant City Attorney Eve Lewis
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

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

Mayor Sarbone explained that Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Orders 20-52 and 20-69, as continuously extended, and Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorized all local governments to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by both state and local law as necessary to allow local governments to continue to perform public work and take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. He noted that the meeting was being conducted live with two (2) Commissioners physically present and participation by three (3) Commissioners using communications media technology consistent with the Governor's Orders and State law. Assistant City Attorney Eve Lewis explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

Finance and Administrative Services

- 1. ORD 2020-029** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY'S OPERATING PROPERTY TAX AT 6.5378 MILLS FOR THE 2021 FISCAL YEAR. (FIRST PUBLIC HEARING)

Assistant City Attorney Lewis read the Ordinance title into the record.

MOTION: Tooley/Rydell – To approve Ordinance No. 2020-029 on first reading.

Mayor Sarbone noted that this was the first public hearing on the City's 2020 Ad Valorem Tax Rate and 2021 Fiscal Year Budget. He introduced Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Peta-Gay Lake, who gave a brief summary of both the Property Tax Rate Ordinance and the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget Ordinance. Ms. Lake noted that the proposed Millage Rate of 6.5378 represented a 4.62% increase over the rollback rate and explained that it was necessary

to maintain service levels and was the rate included on the notice of proposed property taxes mailed to each property owner in August. She reviewed the steps undertaken to develop the proposed budget, including planning and analysis, and noted this year was especially challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated that the 2021 Fiscal Year Budget represented a financial strategy that was responsive to the community's needs and provided for essential capital projects, infrastructure maintenance, and quality municipal services in a productive and efficient manner.

Mayor Sarbone opened the public hearing. City Clerk Leslie May stated there were no advanced public comments received on the item.

Ingrid Ford, 3805 Carambola Circle, Coconut Creek, expressed concern regarding increasing taxes during COVID-19 and the resulting loss of jobs and lives. Mayor Sarbone asked for clarification from staff on the increase Ms. Ford referenced. City Manager Karen Brooks stated the tax rate had not been increased, but homeowners would see property tax increases due to increased value in their homes. Mayor Sarbone asked that a member of staff review Ms. Ford's tax bill with her. Ms. Lake noted that if there were no changes from the City Commission, the City's operating property tax would be tentatively set at 6.5378 mills and the proposed FY2021 Budget would be tentatively adopted. The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Tooley referenced Ms. Ford's comments and shared that her bill had also increased as a result of increases in the value of her home, the assessment by Broward County, and the assessment by the School Board. Vice Mayor Rydell stated anyone having issues with property value increases could contact the Property Appraiser and contest the valuation. Ms. Brooks stated the valuation on a homesteaded home could not increase by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.1 percent. Vice Mayor Rydell clarified property taxes were not being raised by the City.

Upon roll call, the Ordinance passed on first reading by a 5-0 vote.

2. **ORD 2020-030** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET AS THE CITY'S OFFICIAL BUDGET. THIS ORDINANCE WILL APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR OPERATING CITY DEPARTMENTS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FROM OCTOBER 1, 2020, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021. (FIRST PUBLIC HEARING)

Assistant City Attorney Lewis read the Ordinance title into the record.

MOTION: Welch/Tooley – To approve Ordinance No. 2020-030 on first reading.

Mayor Sarbone opened the public hearing. City Clerk Leslie May stated there were no advanced public comments received on the item. There were no further questions or comments from the public, and Mayor Sarbone closed the public hearing.

Upon roll call, the Ordinance passed on first reading by a 5-0 vote.

3. **RES 2020-176** A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY; ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; IMPOSING FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY; AND APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL. (PUBLIC HEARING)

Mayor Sarbone read the Resolution title into the record.

MOTION: Rydell/Tooley – To approve Resolution No. 2020-176.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Peta-Gay Lake presented the item and noted that there was a proposed five (5) percent increase to cover the increasing cost of fire assessment services. Mayor Sarbone stated there had been a lot of discussion on the issue, and asserted the City was scheduled to complete a study of fire costs in the coming year. He commented on the methods used in other municipalities and stated there was variation in how the matter is handled. Commissioner Welch added that Coconut Creek is not like any other city, and said she was confident the independent consultants look at the community in an impartial and objective way. Vice Mayor Rydell commented he was not sure that 100 percent assessment was the right answer and added that a global discussion on the matter needed to be held.

Mayor Sarbone opened the public hearing. City Clerk Leslie May stated there were no advanced public comments received on the item.

Malcolm Butters, 6820 Lyons Technology circle, Coconut Creek, stated the City needed to look at how the assessment was broken down for fire services and pointed out the commercial rate in Coconut Creek is much higher than in other cities. He commented on the way in which various businesses in the City are assessed and asked that it be looked at in a fair and balanced way. Mayor Sarbone closed the public hearing.

Upon roll call, the Resolution passed by a 5-0 vote.

4. **RES 2020-177** A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE IN THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK; ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; RE-IMPOSING SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY; AND APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL. (PUBLIC HEARING)

Mayor Sarbone read the Resolution title into the record.

MOTION: Rydell/Tooley – To approve Resolution No. 2020-177.

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Peta-Gay Lake presented the item and explained that the resolution sets the rate for solid waste for single-family residences at \$324.44, which represented a 14.22 percent increase, and noted that the rate included the hauling and disposal costs, transition from recycling to solid waste pickup, franchise fees, cleaning and sanitizing of two carts once per year, and the household hazardous waste program.

Mayor Sarbone opened the public hearing. City Clerk Leslie May stated there were no

advanced public comments received on the item. There were no further questions or comments from the public, and Mayor Sarbone closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Welch asked City Manager Brooks to explain when recycling would end and plans for education on the changes. City Manager Brooks stated staff was currently working on the program and planned to have it ready by early November. Commissioner Tooley asserted usage was up due to people spending more time at home during COVID-19 and added that residents did not realize how much it cost the City when recycling bins were contaminated. Vice Mayor Rydell stated he was not happy with being forced to end recycling, and noted the Commission was committed to lobbying for change.

Upon roll call, the Resolution passed by a 5-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Transcribed by: C. Parkinson, Prototype

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Date