



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: March 14, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2024-0314WS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rydell called the meeting to order at 6:05 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

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 and was being streamed on the City's website.

DISCUSSION – FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET STRATEGIC PLANNING

Finance and Administrative Services Director Peta-Gay Lake introduced the City's new Budget and Grants Manager Veronica Munoz and outlined the workshop format. She shared a *PowerPoint* presentation with an overview of the City's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget process, including alignment with the City's Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, prioritization and collaboration, and the timeline for adoption. She discussed recent accomplishments and reviewed the proposed FY25 initiatives, programs, and projects. She highlighted a need to evaluate current staffing levels when requesting new programming and discussed a system for categorization of requests. She reviewed long term plans to be considered in the budget process, including the ten (10) year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) schedule, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan scheduled improvements, improvements related to the MainStreet Project Area, and the Police and Fire Department buildings. She noted that the future development of the ten (10) acres the City owns in the MainStreet Project Area was also a topic to be considered when discussing the City's goals. She advised that a longer conversation would be held on each of these items later in the budget process.

Ms. Lake shared a list of budget requests that had been previously submitted and asked the Commission to assist in categorizing the items for future funding considerations and long-term planning. She advised that the City had many competing priorities with limited resources, and while the City remained financially strong, all of the City's resources could easily be spent on any one (1) of the key focus areas, noting balance was essential.

Mayor Rydell asked whether additional staffing requests from departments were anticipated. City Manager Brooks advised that all departments of the City were tapped out, and if current workloads were to

Minutes

March 14, 2024 – Commission Workshop

Page 2

continue, requests for additional staffing were anticipated. She explained that the Commission's prioritization of its requests would guide that planning. Mayor Rydell stated there was a large wish list, and with that comes increased need for staffing and potentially higher taxes to fund the list. City Manager Brooks pointed to the list of the City's current initiatives on a wide variety of topics and highlighted the work of staff to carry out each of the numerous initiatives.

Mayor Rydell identified his top two (2) priorities as the matching dollars for Police Department body cameras and building a permanent fire station. He noted U.S. Congressman Jared Moskowitz had helped the City to obtain \$1 million in funding for the body cameras, and the Fire Rescue Department had been in a temporary station for two (2) years. City Manager Brooks addressed the condition of the temporary Fire Station 113 briefly. Mayor Rydell reiterated that the permanent fire station was the top priority followed by the Police Department body cameras, and suggested that some of the significant Parks and Recreation projects could be reduced. He commented on the need to be conscious of staff time.

Vice Mayor Welch agreed with the items Mayor Rydell highlighted and noted she was very interested in updates to the Fleet Building. She pointed out the City insurance program also needed to be a priority because it was identified as an important item in the employee survey. Vice Mayor Welch asked for clarification on the surtax funds earmarked for the South Creek improvements. Ms. Lake advised that the City had funds for design in FY25 and FY26, but construction would not be until FY28. Vice Mayor Welch stated she would be in favor of moving forward with the funded portion. Continuing, Vice Mayor Welch asked whether Mayor Rydell's reference to the new fire station also included the fiber optics and everything that would be included in the package. Mayor Rydell indicated it was everything included in the budget priority for public safety infrastructure. Vice Mayor Welch requested that staff investigate whether it would require a millage rate increase to give the Police Department a new building, and to review renovations sooner rather than later. She stated all of the City's first responders needed to be kept in the best living and working conditions. Discussion continued regarding cost estimates. City Manager Brooks advised that whether a millage rate increase was necessary would depend on how the budget was prioritized. She stated with a price tag of more than \$30 million, some sort of debt or tax increase would be needed. She noted the capacity of the Seminole fund.

Commissioner Railey stated she agreed that the Fire and Police Departments needed to be the top priority, as well as anything that could be done to upgrade the neighborhoods, service to the residents, and the employee insurance program. She pointed to the estimates for the Fire and Police Stations and asked about costs for a combined complex. Discussion continued regarding the buildings.

Commissioner Brodie agreed the first responders should always be the first thing on the agenda. He asked about the line item for the Vinkemulder utilities. Utilities and Engineering Director Osama Elshami shared a brief background on the proposal to extend water and waste water utilities to the community.

Commissioner Wasserman confirmed Police and Fire as the top priorities. He asked for clarification on allotted funds in the budget. Ms. Lake explained staff was early in the budget process and that was still to be determined. Commissioner Wasserman highlighted the employee insurance program and the new parent supplement as priorities. He noted he loved the idea of a micro-transit program.

City Manager Brooks asked that each Commissioner categorize the list on paper so staff could compile the priorities into the proposed budget and ask for additional direction, as needed.

Mayor Rydell commented on the volume of requests on the CIP list and advised that prioritizing the Police and Fire Stations without raising taxes would mean most other things were pushed out a few years. He pointed to the number of conversations that needed to be had regarding staffing needs for various departments and the significant cost of increasing insurance benefits.

Vice Mayor Welch agreed that other projects would need to be pushed out, and asserted that the insurance program needed to be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date