



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 13, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2023-0413R

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joshua Rydell called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Broward County Mayor Lamar P. Fisher spoke briefly regarding the role of Broward County to serve the municipalities and expressed an interest in communication and collaboration. He provided a brief update following recent storms, noting the airport was targeted to open the following morning. He stated Governor Ron DeSantis had signed a State of Emergency for the County.

Mayor Rydell presented Mayor Fisher and members of his staff with butterfly pins.

- 1. 23-043** A PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING THE EXCEPTIONAL ARTWORK OF STUDENTS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS.

Recreation Programmer Nicole Samsel recognized the 2023 Student Art Show participants, who included students from Coconut Creek High School, Lyons Creek Middle School, Monarch High School, and North Broward Preparatory School.

- 2. 23-037** A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR NEW POLICE OFFICER MATTHEW ROWLES.

Police Captain Jenna Kriplean introduced new Police Officer Matthew Rowles, providing a brief review of his background. City Clerk Kavanagh administered the Oath of Office, followed by the badge pinning ceremony.

- 3. 23-065** A PRESENTATION OF THE LIFESAVING COMMENDATION AWARD FOR LIEUTENANT RYAN MARKEN, SERGEANT DANTE TANFULLA, AND OFFICER JUSTIN ABRAM.

Police Captain Kriplean noted this was not the first Lifesaving Commendation Award for these officers. She outlined the incident that led to the recognition and presented Lieutenant Ryan Marken, Sergeant Dante Tanfulla, and Officer Justin Abram with the commendations.

- 4. 23-068** A PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, AND PLANNING AND ZONING ADVISORY BOARD FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING THE 2022-2023 YEAR.

Mayor Rydell thanked the members of the City's advisory boards for their efforts throughout the year, which had helped shaped the City and its programs.

Civil Service Board

Nik Anderson
Cindy Brief
Doreen Chamberlain
Valencia Massey
Nikki-Ann Thomson-Parkinson
Nafisa (Aliea) Seeram
Steven Valentine

Planning and Zoning Board

Doug Young
Thomas Casey
Jeffrey Barker
Corinne Lajoie
Colleen LaPlant

Parks and Recreation Board

Kenneth Forbes
Randy Johnson
David Anderson
Steven LaMay
Joel VanHemel
Alfred Delgado

- 5. 23-041** A PRESENTATION RECOGNIZING SECOND QUARTER EMPLOYEE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.

Human Resources Director Pamela Kershaw recognized the following employees who had reached a milestone anniversary during the second quarter (January through March) of Fiscal Year 2023:

Five (5) Year Anniversary

Adam Bergman, Budget & Grants Analyst, Finance & Administrative Services
Tammy Eller, Group Exercise Instructor, Parks & Recreation Department
Denise Jimenez, Senior Staff Assistant, Police Department
Scotty Leamon, Public Safety Information Officer, Police Department
Arthur Patton, Police Officer, Police Department

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Logan Serraes, Police Officer, Police Department

Steven Yuskevich, Maintenance Service Worker III, Public Works Department

Lisa Thompson-Hall, Senior Staff Assistant, Utilities & Engineering Department

Dany Kabrit, Senior Project Manager, Utilities & Engineering Department

Ten (10) Year Anniversary

Janet Hull, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, Parks & Recreation Department

Barbara Hendrickx, Police Sergeant, Police Department

Eileen Cabrera, Senior Engineer, Utilities & Engineering Department

Fifteen (15) Year Anniversary

Kelvin Greenleaf, Fitness Specialist, Parks & Recreation Department

Tim Martilotto, Fitness Specialist, Parks & Recreation Department

Joe Fariello, Police Sergeant, Police Department

Twenty-five (25) Year Anniversary

Jason Kohlhorst, Police Sergeant, Police Department

Dennis Underwood, Senior Lead Worker, Public Works Department

Thirty (30) Year Anniversary

Denise Stecko, Administrative Assistant, Sustainable Development Department

- 6. 23-050** A PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THE CITY'S ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) AND THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THE CITY'S POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (PAFR) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.

Finance and Administration Services Director Peta-Gay Lake announced the City was proud to have received these awards, noting this marked the 39th year the City had been recognized for its ACFR and the 15th consecutive year the City had been recognized for its PAFR. She played a brief video from the Government Finance Officers Association in recognition of the accomplishments.

- 7. 23-051** A PRESENTATION OF THE DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL BUDGET AND FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Budgets and Grants Manager Kisha Holland presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the City's Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. She played a brief video from the Government Finance Officers Association in recognition of the accomplishment.

Mayor Rydell recognized the Finance Department staff on helping the City to be well balanced and financially sound.

- 8. 23-067** A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2023 AS "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH."

Commissioner Railey read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Julliana Carranza Escobar and her son, Gabrielle. Ms. Carranza Escobar shared her son's story and discussed his advocacy efforts for those with autism.

9. **23-063** A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 9-15, 2023, AS “NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK.”

Commissioner Brodie read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Police Captain Kriplean and members of the dispatch staff.

10. **23-060** A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 17-23, 2023, AS “CITY SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2023” IN THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK.

Commissioner Wasserman read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Sustainable Development Director Scott Stoudenmire.

11. **23-040** A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 23-29, 2023, AS “NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK.”

Vice Mayor Welch read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Victim Advocate Tara Arena. Ms. Arena invited the Commission and public to the annual victim vigil on April 25 and recognized the Coconut Creek Police Department Detectives, Sergeants, and Lieutenants for making victims a priority. She stated she had never worked with a unit that took victims’ needs so much to heart. Mayor Rydell made a brief statement, thanking Ms. Arena for her work in the community.

INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

City Clerk Kavanagh read one (1) advanced public comment into the record, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “1,” as follows:

Joseph Torracco, 5551 NW 49 Way, Coconut Creek, wrote to request assistance with a pending permit for replacement of his driveway which he said was being held up because of tree issues.

Mayor Rydell asked that staff update the Commission on Mr. Torracco’s request at the next meeting.

Dan Seidel, 2504 Antigua Terrace, Coconut Creek, spoke regarding his political experience and shared the details of a proposed ordinance titled Free Range Kids. He discussed parental rights and submitted a packet of documents for the record.

Philippa Sklaar, 4401 Martinique Court, Coconut Creek, asked Commissioner Railey a question regarding reporting work without a permit at Martinique Village Condominiums in the Wynmoor community.

Mayor Rydell expressed concern that accusations were being made and stated that it was not typical for Commissioners to respond to questions.

Joyce Lionetti, 4401 Martinique Court, Coconut Creek, yielded her time to Ms. Sklaar.

Ms. Sklaar continued, accusing Commissioner Railey of filing a false police report and not supporting a Wynmoor constituent, who was being falsely accused.

John Lionetti, 4401 Martinique Court, Coconut Creek, yielded his time to Ms. Sklaar.

Vinni Murphy, 1804 Eleuthera Point, Coconut Creek, yielded his time to Ms. Sklaar.

Douglas Murphy, 1804 Eleuthera Point, Coconut Creek, yielded his time to Ms. Sklaar.

Ms. Sklaar continued, citing the responsibilities of a fiduciary and the use of community resources for personal gain. She asserted Commissioner Railey had failed her constituents and asked why she believes she deserves to continue to serve as Commissioner.

Mayor Rydell clarified that the remainder of the time was waived. He stated he was not familiar with the Wynmoor issues and was not in a position to respond, but if there was a City issue, an appropriate complaint should be filed.

Commissioner Railey responded briefly. She apologized to her colleagues, residents, and staff, asserting she had been slandered by Ms. Sklaar and her group for several weeks.

Jorge Mederos shared a *PowerPoint* presentation updating on the Coconut Creek Boulevard Improvement Initiative, a cooperation between Broward College and residents of South Creek. He shared concern related to graffiti and all-terrain vehicles tearing up the property and provided a brief background on the issue. Mayor Rydell thanked Mr. Mederos for his activism to better the City. Commissioner Wasserman stated he would follow up with staff to learn more about the project and do what he can to assist.

Patricia Louise Duaybes, 4106 Oxbow Drive, Coconut Creek, thanked the Commission and City staff for their part in the Broward County improvements to Wiles Road and asked whether the signage stating the project would go through July 31 was correct, as it looked as though the work was almost done. City Manager Brooks stated staff would see what they can do about expediting the project. Ms. Duaybes thanked the City for prioritizing infrastructure, noting the flooding emergency which had happened in Fort Lauderdale and other communities over the previous days had not impacted Coconut Creek. Mayor Rydell recognized Utilities and Engineering Director Osama Elshami and his staff for their efforts. City Manager Brooks agreed that it was a testament to continuity of staff over the years, not allowing maintenance to be neglected.

Nancy Fry, 5341 Flamingo Place, Coconut Creek, commented the City's meetings should be maintained and archived on the YouTube channel so that residents can go back to them later, commenting it was an easier system than Granicus. City Manager Brooks stated staff would look into it. Mayor Rydell sought and received consensus from the Commission to maintain live-streamed Commission meetings on YouTube.

CONSENT AGENDA (Items 12-17)

Mayor Rydell read each of the titles of the Consent Agenda Items into the record.

12. **23-042** A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS CITY COMMISSION MEETING(S). (2023-0309R)
13. **23-044** A MOTION TO CANCEL THE JULY 27 AND AUGUST 10, 2023, REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS.
14. **23-061** A MOTION TO REJECT RTQ NO. 01-11-23-11 FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES (OWNERS' REPRESENTATIVES) AND THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED.
15. **23-062** A MOTION TO REJECT BID NO. 11-02-22-11 FOR PARKING LOT MILLING

AND RESURFACING-ADA IMPROVEMENTS AND THE BID RESPONSES RECEIVED.

16. **RES 2023-064** A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CERTAIN UTILITY EASEMENTS OVER, ACROSS, THROUGH, IN, AND UNDER A PORTION OF LAND LYING WITHIN 6502-6588 N. STATE ROAD 7, RELATING TO PARCEL NUMBER 484206080010, LOCATED IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN COMPOSITE EXHIBIT "1."
17. **RES 2023-065** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BROWARD COUNTY FOR SURTAX-FUNDED MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECT: MILLING, PAVING, AND RESURFACING OF PUBLIC ROADS, BC-CCREEK-FY2020-00001, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STREET IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE II

MOTION: Welch/Brodie – To approve the Consent Agenda Items 12 through 17.

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Finance Department

18. **23-052** A MOTION TO ACCEPT FOR FILING AS THE RECORD COPY WITH THE CITY CLERK THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) AND THE OTHER INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Mayor Rydell read the Motion title into the record.

MOTION: Welch/Railey – To approve the Motion.

Finance and Administrative Services Director Peta-Gay Lake presented the item, noting there had been a successful audit with no recommendations for improvements and no concerns raised by the auditors. She noted despite rising expenses, the City had ended the year in a strong financial position.

Marc Grace, Auditing Partner, Keefe McCullough, provided an overview of the audit report. He summarized the areas reviewed in this year's audit, noting the areas change year-to-year. He stated an unmodified opinion was given, and no weaknesses or deficiencies were identified.

The Commission recognized staff for their knowledge and professionalism. City Manager Brooks commented she was proud of the Finance Department and City staff as a whole for their fiscal responsibility.

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

19. **23-057** A MOTION TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO PAY THE OUTSTANDING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BALANCE ON THE JOHNS PARCEL FOR THE

CULLUM ROAD UTILITY CONVERSION PROJECT.

Mayor Rydell read the Motion title into the record.

MOTION: Railey/Wasserman – To approve the Motion.

Ms. Lake presented the item, explaining the property was currently under contract, and the purchaser had requested an extension to allow for due diligence and closing on the property.

Mayor Rydell asked whether staff approved the recommendation. Ms. Lake confirmed this was correct.

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

Utilities and Engineering

20. **RES 2023-063** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE A WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR GENERAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH CARNAHAN, PROCTOR AND CROSS, INC. TO PERFORM A STRUCTURAL CONDITION SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT FOR FIVE (5) CITY-OWNED BRIDGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RFQ NO. 03-25-20-02.

Mayor Rydell read the Resolution title into the record

MOTION: Welch/Railey – To approve Resolution No. 2023-063.

Utilities and Engineering Director Osama Elshami presented the item sharing images of the five (5) bridges in Coconut Creek. He stated a bi-annual inspection report was provided by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), but this would be a more in-depth survey of needed repairs. He explained a neighborhood improvement project, utilizing Broward County Transportation Surtax funds, to widen the bridges would be proposed as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and noted that would be a separate project.

Commissioner Brodie asked whether there would be x-rays taken to view the steel condition inside the bridge. Dan Tintner, Senior Vice President, Carnahan, Proctor and Cross, Inc., responded briefly, explaining the equipment that would be used to conduct a detailed study to identify damage or issues with the steel.

Commissioner Brodie inquired as to whether as-built drawings exist from the 1940s when the bridges were constructed. Mr. Tintner stated they had checked with FDOT and determined they did not have drawings. He explained that a separate proposal would be provided to scan the bridges and create drawings.

Vice Mayor Welch asked about the estimated timeline for the neighborhood improvement project to widen the bridges. Mr. Elshami stated based on current funding cycles, the Broward County Transportation Surtax funds would not be available until Fiscal Year 2028, with construction beginning in 2030. He noted that FDOT had been inspecting the bridges, and City crews had been maintaining them, so they were believed to be in good condition.

Mayor Rydell asked for examples of reports which had been created for other municipalities, and Mr. Tintner responded that they would provide the Commission with samples.

Commissioner Railey noted the ongoing FDOT inspections, and asked how frequently it was necessary to have a structural condition survey completed. Mr. Tintner explained the difference in depth between the FDOT surveys and this survey, and stated this was a one (1) time process to identify any issues so there were no surprises when conducting maintenance and repairs.

Mayor Rydell clarified there were no imminent issues with the bridges. Mr. Elshami stated the bridges were well maintained, but the City wanted to be proactive in its approach.

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

Public Works Department

21. **RES 2023-010** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MASTER MECHANICAL SERVICES, INC. FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) UNITS AT THE RECREATION COMPLEX PURSUANT TO IFB NO. 01-04-23-11.

MOTION: Wasserman/Railey – To approve Resolution No. 2023-010.

Public Works Director Harry Mautte presented the item, noting the project was to be funded by a combination of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$282,000 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$318,000. He reviewed the bid process and the responses received.

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

22. **RES 2023-051** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TECHGROUPONE, INC. FOR THE SABAL PINES PARK BOULEVARD RAILING REPLACEMENT PROJECT PURSUANT TO IFB NO. 02-28-23-12.

MOTION: Railey/Welch – To approve Resolution No. 2023-051.

Mr. Mautte presented the item, noting the existing recycled plastic railing at Sabal Pines Park had been installed 10 years ago and was degraded to the point of needing replacement. He explained the projected timeline was 180 days.

Commissioner Brodie referenced the bids received and noted he was concerned by the wide difference in cost and time. Mr. Mautte outlined the review process and stated staff was comfortable and the scope was understood.

Commissioner Railey asked what the anticipated life of the new replacement railing would be. Mr. Mautte stated the stainless steel should last much longer than the previous and was likely to outlast the structure.

Vice Mayor Welch and Mayor Rydell spoke in support of the replacement project.

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

- 23. ORD 2023-003** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER 12, "GARBAGE AND REFUSE," ARTICLE II, "COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL," AND ARTICLE III, "RECYCLABLE WASTE," TO UPDATE SAME TO REFLECT CHANGES IN RECYCLING PROCESSES AND STATE LAW. (FIRST READING)

City Attorney Pyburn read the Ordinance title into the record.

MOTION: Welch/Brodie – To approve Ordinance No. 2023-003 on first reading.

City Attorney Pyburn explained the ordinance cleaned up the portion of the Code related to solid waste and recycling in order to comport with State law and the current hauling contract.

Vice Mayor Welch stated she had learned that if contamination of recycled materials exceeded 10 percent in a load, the City was charged \$55, and asked how often that threshold was met. Mr. Mautte explained the percentage of contamination in the prior single stream system was around 33 percent, but the drop-off center was kept under 10 percent.

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Brooks stated a few years ago, the Commission had approved a process for tree and bench memorials for residents who wanted to make that purchase. She explained staff receives many requests and was in the process of trying to evolve the process to meet changing needs. She stated the changes would be brought to a future Commission meeting and encouraged the Commissioners to share any input. Vice Mayor Welch asked whether alternatives to the current policy were being sought. City Manager Brooks stated that because of concerns about space and maintenance requirements, staff was looking at a virtual program.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

City Attorney Pyburn responded to a request from Mayor Rydell at the last meeting for a memorandum, regarding the general process for Charter amendments by the Commission and by the public. She stated for the record that she had provided that memorandum immediately following the last Commission meeting and reviewed it briefly with the Commission. She asked whether there was any direction regarding specific changes or questions regarding the memorandum.

Mayor Rydell stated he believed the issue of electing a Mayor should be put on the ballot, noting he was not requesting a strong Mayor. He added that he also believed the residents should be given the opportunity to vote on whether the election should be moved to November.

Vice Mayor Welch agreed that the election should be moved to November, and noted residents were asking for the change. She noted there were questions to consider regarding the election of a Mayor, including whether it should be a part-time or full-time position, and if redistricting would need to be considered.

Mayor Rydell discussed how the Mayor position was handled in neighboring municipalities and noted the impact of time limits on the process.

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Commissioner Wasserman commented the Commission would need to consider how to implement the change from March to November equitably, as well as how to make the change transparently. He asserted the election timeline should be the main discussion, and the election of Mayor secondary. He discussed election fatigue and stated it would be less pressure on the candidates to educate residents if the election were held in November when there was already an election happening.

Mayor Rydell asked whether Commissioner Wasserman would support placing an item on the ballot to elect the Mayor, and Commissioner Wasserman responded that he would need to look into that issue more before commenting.

Commissioner Brodie stated he believed both items needed to be on the ballot at the same time.

Commissioner Railey commented they should also take into consideration the area with the most turnout and the largest block of votes. She stated that could result in inadvertently having the same Mayor continually, and a rotation was probably fairer. She noted that a November election would also save the City money.

Mayor Rydell responded to Commissioner Railey's comment about turnout, noting that in November, Wynmoor does not carry as high a margin City-wide as it does in March.

Vice Mayor Welch stated she supported moving the election date but was less inclined toward having an elected Mayor. She asserted that continuing the rotation and having an open, transparent conversation, was workable.

Commissioner Wasserman asked whether there was a consultant who could do the research into election dates and how to make procedures for a shift.

Mayor Rydell stated Florida Atlantic University (FAU) had traditionally done research on this topic, but he would refer to the City Attorney on that issue. He noted that a resident could request the item be placed on the ballot. He added that he had brought up the issue of electing the Mayor because three (3) years from now, Coconut Creek would be the last city in Broward County that still rotates the seat.

City Attorney Pyburn provided additional detail regarding the process. She noted approximately 3,781 residents would be required to put forward a ballot measure by the public, or the Commission could make the request and staff would draft an ordinance for first and second reading. She stated in either instance, the soonest the electors could vote on the matter was November 2024. She noted another option would be to wait for the Charter Review Board to reconvene in January 2025. She explained consultants from FAU were previously utilized for the redistricting in 2018 and noted the Redistricting Board was set to reconvene in 2026 due to changes to the schedule made by the most recent Charter Review Board.

Discussion continued and consensus was to discuss the item at the next Commission meeting and to have staff explore the option of bringing in a consultant from FAU.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wasserman thanked staff and his colleagues for their assistance with his transition. He commented on the Planning and Zoning Board meeting held the night before and noted the public's feedback regarding the proposed Greystar Cocomar development. He noted the lack of a graphic to show the project from the north side of the property, which would be the view from the residents' back yards. Commissioner Wasserman discussed the rise of antisemitism and asked for Commission support

for having a Holocaust memorial in the City.

Commissioner Brodie shared his feedback regarding the City's Health Fair, calling it top notch. He noted a community meeting was planned for April 18 regarding a resident-planned Fourth of July celebration and stated he planned to attend and see what was discussed. Commissioner Brodie shared his prayers for the family of Police Chief Arenal.

Vice Mayor Welch showed off the t-shirts for the Teen Political Forum, noting they had a *Stranger Things* theme. She stated the event would be held on May 17, and thanked staff for their subject matter expertise and resources offered to the students. Vice Mayor Welch commented on the loss of Jim DePelisi, who was dedicated to the community in putting on the Broward Crime Commission seminars. She highlighted the City's plans to bring in a summer intern from a local high school and thanked staff for their efforts. She shared that she had attended the Northwest Council of Elected Officials meeting in Lauderhill, and noted their cricket stadium would be hosting the World Cup in 2024.


Mayor Rydell stated Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen would be presenting a proposal to the County Commission to pay one (1) year of the rent or mortgage payments for First Responders killed in the line of duty. City Manager Brooks asked whether that would apply to just County employees, or all First Responders throughout the County, and who would pay for it if it was a municipal employee. Mayor Rydell stated the proposal was for Broward County to pay this benefit for any First Responder that served within the County. Mayor Rydell received consensus to provide a letter of support for the proposal. Mayor Rydell stated Commissioner Bogen had also asked that the City assist in getting the word out on his program regarding preventive health measures.

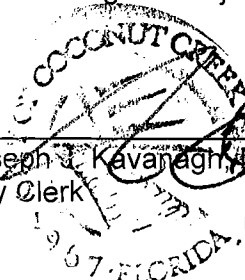
Commissioner Railey stated the project had been in the works for several years, and explained the program provided for free cancer and cardiac scans for those who cannot afford it. Discussion ensued regarding the qualifying factors and opportunities for promotion. Commissioner Railey addressed the previous comments that being President of the Wynmoor community represented a conflict of interest. She stated she was not paid for her work for Wynmoor, recuses herself when issues related to Wynmoor come before the Commission, and there was an administrator who directs staff there. She asserted she had never concealed anything or done anything that was not transparent. Mayor Rydell stated he believed that Commissioner Railey had gracefully separated her jobs. He reiterated that he had found it offensive to come to a public forum to make attacks.

Mayor Rydell referenced the Fourth of July event meeting that Commissioner Brodie had mentioned and stated he had met with the organizer to discuss logistical issues and past experience. He stated he had suggested the Winston Park Foundation spearhead the event, and noted the event was not City-sanctioned, nor would it use City resources. Discussion continued. Mayor Rydell recognized the difficulty of making changes to the memorial program City Manager Brooks had mentioned and thanked her for handling a sensitive topic delicately.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.



Joseph J. Kavanagh, AMC
City Clerk


5/11/2023

Date

EXHIBIT "1"

From: [Joseph Torracco](#)
To: [CommissionComments](#)
Subject: Pending Permit #23000512
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:12:30 AM

We are asking for help from the Coconut Creek government.

All we want to do is replace our aging asphalt driveway with pavers. But the contractor's request for a permit is being held up because we don't have a "street tree" in our front yard. Frankly, I don't know what that has to do with a driveway.

We have two roebellinis near the street, a foxtail palm further back (but palms are apparently not trees). We also have a rare queen sago that is over 12 feet tall, and two king sagos (sagos are not palms, but are cycads), among a lot of other vegetation. The front is nicely landscaped and adding a "12 foot oak tree" will crowd the look of an otherwise attractive front yard, not to mention what its root system may eventually do to underground utilities. I would hate to have to destroy two nearly 30 year old roebellinis to accommodate the "12 foot oak".

In our back yard we have eight trees which includes three 30 foot oaks; so I think we've covered the oak requirement nicely

We have lived here for 23 years and the lack of a "street tree" has never been a problem.

Can you help two senior citizens simply get their driveway done?

Respectfully,

Joseph and Linda Torracco
5551 NW 49th Way
Coconut Creek 33073
Cypress Lake - Lot #139