



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

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

**Date: May 13, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Special Meeting No. 2020-0513SP**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sarbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lou Sarbone
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
City Manager Karen Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
Deputy City Clerk Marianne Bowers

Mayor Sarbone explained that the City Commission was conducting this meeting using communications media technology pursuant to Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 20-69, as extended by Executive Order 20-112, which provided that local governments may conduct meetings without the requirement to have a quorum physically present or to hold the meeting at a physical location in response to the emergency circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He further explained that the Governor's Executive Order 20-52, as extended by Executive Order 20-114, 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 would be conducted consistent with the virtual meeting procedures adopted by the Commission on April 15, 2020. City Attorney Pyburn explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the virtual meeting.

Mayor Sarbone read a statement regarding the order of operations for the meeting, noting that the public comments received would be read into the record first followed by the City Manager's presentation and then discussion by the Commission. He provided a brief history regarding the transition of fire/EMS services and stated the issues the City had were with the County dispatch system, not the service providers.

INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Deputy City Clerk Marianne Bowers played the following 16 voicemail messages that were received on the public comment line prior to the meeting.

Margate City Commissioner Antonio Arserio expressed his displeasure with holding a meeting regarding separating the fire/EMS services during a global pandemic. He said the 120,000 residents of the

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combined cities deserved to be heard in a proper forum and asked that a public discussion be held once in-person meetings are again permissible. Commissioner Arserio stated he believed the fire/EMS services of Margate and Coconut Creek should remain combined.

Julie Jones, 7871 NW 3 Street, Margate, Secretary of the Board of Adjustments, stated she believed the vote on fire/EMS services in Coconut Creek needed to be tabled until further notice.

Julie Vandermulen asked the discussion on separation of fire/EMS services be tabled until after the pandemic closures ended.

Mika Figueroa, 2668 NW 62 Terrace, Margate, stated the meeting should be held at a later date so residents could give input. She said if the departments split, a lot of people would be put at risk, including the elderly and children who depend on the affiliation.

Rebecca Forbes, 6265 NW 45 Terrace, Coconut Creek, urged the Commissioners to postpone the meeting until after the COVID-19 restrictions were eased.

Brett Fagan, 4290 NW 11 Street, Coconut Creek, stated he believed it was a bad idea to separate the fire/EMS departments. He referenced strength in numbers and said there should be focus on cleaning up the canal system.

Todd Lacey, Driver Engineer, stated his name and position with Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue and the call ended.

Trent Grady stated he was highly against separating the fire departments and said he believed it would hurt both communities.

Marge Malin, 6202 NW 45 Avenue, Coconut Creek, spoke against holding a meeting virtually regarding an item as important as fire/EMS services. She asked why the subject had arisen at this time and questioned the timeline and logistics of a separation, including whether all areas would be covered, costs, when and where building out would occur, and whether there would be coverage for hurricane season.

Ralph Edo, 5099 NW 55 Terrace, Coconut Creek, stated he is a firefighter with the City of Fort Lauderdale and was very unhappy to hear about the potential separation of joint operations. He noted vital time would be wasted in transferring systems and said it was his professional opinion that it was a bad move.

Nancy Sanders, 6185 NW 45 Terrace, Coconut Creek, spoke against the fire/EMS discussion being held during a virtual meeting. She stated taxpayers should have more information and be part of the decision-making process.

Nadir Rodrigues, 4510 NW 61 Street, Coconut Creek, stated the special meeting should wait until after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and face-to-face dialogue can be held.

Alex Koper, 2348 NW 36 Avenue, Coconut Creek, stated the separation would not be a good idea and would cause problems. He said he believed it would cost more money and have no benefit to residents.

Dave Foster, 741 NW 48 Avenue, Coconut Creek, stated the combined fire department was among the most award-winning in Florida and separation was probably ill-advised.

Joseph Cataldo, 6131 NW 43 Avenue, Coconut Creek, said he recommended against separation of the fire/EMS department, noting he believes the system is working and should not be messed with.

Deputy City Clerk Bowers read the following email messages received in the account designated for public comment prior to the meeting.

Kellie Rosiak, 3485 Cocoplum Circle, Coconut Creek, expressed concern taxes would go up and firefighters would be asked to work longer shifts if the departments were separated.

Vince Rosiak, 3485 Cocoplum Circle, Coconut Creek, asked how a separate fire/EMS department would be funded and questioned the timing of the discussion during a pandemic. He asked why the City saw the proposed 48 hours on, 96 hours off schedule as optimal and whether a similar schedule was being utilized in other communities.

Jeffrey Thorpe stated the fire department worked well combined. He questioned the special meeting being held during COVID-19 closures.

Email address bakkaotaku@gmail.com stated splitting the fire department would be detrimental to both cities. They questioned items within the City of Coconut Creek Transitional Study, including how staff and potential applicants would be treated. They expressed concern regarding the proposed 48/96 schedule and the impact of sleep deprivation and provided links to articles for further research.

Joshua W. Wertheim, 6212 North State Road 7, Coconut Creek, called the discussion on splitting fire/EMS services moronic and asked that the Commission keep their hands off the fire department.

Barbara Beck-Mercado, 4761 Acadian Trail, Coconut Creek, voiced concern regarding splitting the fire departments. She noted the departments were combined for reasons, which included lower ISO ratings and shared stations.

Jamie Redmond, 4320 NW 12 Street, Coconut Creek, stated the partnership with Margate had been successful for years and asked for additional information regarding the cost and benefits of splitting be shared with taxpayers.

Alyson Kaplan stated the topic was too important to be addressed without the residents being able to attend the meeting in person. She noted the data was inconsistent and emergency services would be reduced if the departments separated.

Christiane Pumariega, 311 NW 42 Avenue, Coconut Creek, stated the fire department had a great culture and should not be split.

Dania Haydee-Mir, 7624 NW 18 Street, Margate, expressed concern regarding the splitting of the fire departments. She asked the Commission to reconsider.

Enrique Pumariega, 4520 NW 60 Lane, Coconut Creek, expressed concern there would be less

resources available to residents if the departments were separated. He asked that the item be tabled until a meeting could be held in public.

Diana Klinghagen, 3242 Carambola Circle South, Coconut Creek, stated she did not support splitting the fire department. She noted she did not see the move as cost-effective and would result in less coverage.

Robin Morini, 1905 Bermuda Circle, Coconut Creek, expressed dismay over the potential separation of the fire departments. She stated she did not see benefit for the increasing population of the community and asked that Commissioners consider the safety of residents.

Email address kcgarcia0316@gmail.com stated separating the fire department would result in less stations serving the community. They implored the Commission to maintain the joint department.

Sharon Rogers, 6395 NW 43 Terrace, Coconut Creek, stated she was concerned with the proposal and asked that the Commission not split from Margate.

Email address ilenelsonn@att.net stated they had been a Coconut Creek resident more than 20 years and appreciated the family atmosphere. They expressed concern the decision to split the fire department was being made outside of a public forum and asked that the issue be reconsidered.

Amy Kitching, South Creek, stated residents could not afford for taxes to increase. She called the current fire department first class and asked that Coconut Creek not separate from Margate.

Linda Barrio, 4051 Edgewood Drive, Coconut Creek, spoke in opposition to separating the fire department.

Dr. Judy Karpis, 4057 NW 52 Street, Coconut Creek, stated splitting Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue would severely and negatively impact the residents. She asked that another area of the budget be utilized to address any shortfalls.

Rhiannon Dimarzo, 3472 NW 47 Avenue, Coconut Creek, expressed concern regarding changes to the fire department. She stated she struggled to see how separating from Margate would benefit anyone and said as an emergency room nurse she had seen the extraordinary knowledge and skills brought by the combined department and thought other options should be explored.

Sheri Adams, 4440 NW 3 Court, Coconut Creek, stated the community had grown, and the extra manpower provided by Margate was needed.

Monica Montalvo, 523 NW 47 Way, Coconut Creek, voiced her opposition to the separation of the fire department. She recounted a story of a friend's child being saved by a Margate-based EMS team and stated the partnership created a strong fire department.

Anthony Catalano, 2091 NW 37 Avenue, Coconut Creek, stated splitting the fire department would delay response to residents and increase property taxes. He urged the decision be delayed to work out issues.

Elissa Hilt, 5422 NW 49 Court, Coconut Creek, referenced a personal experience with the fire department and said the impact on her family was ongoing. She stated the combined department gave

Coconut Creek access to stations, experience, and relationships.

Kim Ridenour, 4401 NW 10 Street, Coconut Creek, stated she would not like to see the fire department split. She said both communities need to stand as one.

Eddie Monahan asked that the City not change its fire department.

Steve Hall, 6214 NW 45 Terrace, Coconut Creek, shared a post from a residents' page on Facebook. He stated the City had been negotiating with the City of Margate for continued fire services and expressed concern regarding the people impacted being left out of the process. He stated he thought a change was needed but should be delayed until in-person public meetings could be held.

Claudia stated this was not the time to make a decision regarding the fire department. She said people should be better informed of both sides of the argument.

Natalie Fagan, 3740 NW 11 Street, Coconut Creek, stated the combined fire department works for both communities and asked the Commissioners to reconsider.

Charlie Gandia, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, said the public had a right to be better informed and asked the decision not be made in the midst of a global pandemic. He stated the results in the study are grossly misleading and inaccurate, omitting a number of factors, and listed costs left out.

Pauline Koper, 2348 NW 36 Avenue, Coconut Creek, expressed concern regarding the proposed dissolution of the combined fire department. She stated she believed the change would result in a reduction in rescue trucks and amenities. She added the issue should be discussed more openly.

Francisco Herrera, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated the study numbers were not accurate and residents were not being allowed to provide comment. He expressed concerns regarding scheduling and standards.

David Malin, 6202 NW 45 Avenue, Coconut Creek, said he was upset and shocked that an issue as important as the fire department was being held virtually. He stated the residents believed the departments were working well together, and asked questions regarding logistics.

Joe Macaione, 3813 NW 59 Street, Coconut Creek, questioned increases to insurance and taxes if the fire departments were to be split.

Gayle Ross, 340 Lake Drive, Coconut Creek, stated she was adamantly against separation of the fire department and listed sacrifices she saw as a result. She stated the partnership should continue.

Nick VanWinkle, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, asked what would be done to ensure no currently employed firefighter was laid off if a split were to happen.

Kristopher Shirm, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, explained he left a smaller department to join Margate/Coconut Creek because it was an opportunity to become something more. He said he was happy to become part of a great organization and expressed concern at losing members of the family if the department separated.

Brian Palmer, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated he is grateful for the opportunity to serve Margate and Coconut Creek each day. He said ending the partnership would have devastating impacts on the residents and the department, noting the numbers reported from the study were not inaccurate.

Michael Henneforth, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, said the separation of the department would come at an expense to the community and questioned the special meeting moving forward during the pandemic. He noted additional studies should be discussed.

Josh Goodman, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, said it was an honor to serve the citizens of both cities. He stated the department was the best and most professional in the region and asked what steps were being taken to be sure there were no layoffs.

Todd Lacey, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, spoke on behalf of the department as a 20-year veteran. He stated separating the department would be a mistake and would create redundancies.

Ryan Collins, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated the department is currently stressed due to the pandemic and questioned the timing of the decision.

Hannah Mashburn, 5051 Wild Road, Coconut Creek, spoke against splitting the fire departments. She called it a complex issue which put lives on the line and stated a better understanding of the job was needed in order to make decisions.

Mike Whitt, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated competitions had put the department on the map and said the separation seemed to come down to bad communication between the cities. He asked that the fire department not be split up.

Vito Labriola, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated that a decision to separate the department would be rash. He asked the Commissioners to further examine the impacts and need for additional personnel and asked for additional time before a decision was made.

Sandra Shakir asked if a separation of the department would mean a loss of jobs. She stated Coconut Creek needs its own firefighters.

Mark Silvis, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated going from a larger department to smaller would increase the need to rely on aid from outside agencies and lengthen call times.

Lauren Linville listed questions and comments regarding the discussion on separating the fire department and line items from the Transitional Study Report and said residents should be able to bring questions to City Hall.

Veronica Fejes, 4301 NW 9 Street, Coconut Creek, stated splitting the fire department would be a major disservice to the City and was absurd.

Lenore Graber, 4290 NW 10 Street, Coconut Creek, implored the Commission to wait for the residents to be able to speak in an open forum and hear the pros and cons before moving forward.

Ana Camacho, 2051 NW 35 Terrace, Coconut Creek said she strongly believed dissolving the 20-year partnership between Margate and Coconut Creek would be a mistake leading to higher taxes and a lower level of service.

Michael Moreira, 4035 Banyan Trails Drive, Coconut Creek, stated he would like residents to receive more information before a decision was made.

Kathrynne Dorencz, 4212 NW 66 Drive, Coconut Creek, spoke as a firefighter with another department. She relayed experiences using the Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue for her mother, noting a lack of professionalism from the first responders. She said the City of Coconut Creek deserves better and would be served well to be part of another department.

Daniel J. O'Brien, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, stated separating the department is wrong and would hurt the citizens of the City. He noted that he saw flaws in the report and thought a decision without a public forum was wrong.

Kevin DeLaCova, Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue, expressed displeasure with having a meeting of this magnitude without a public forum. He stated the Transition Study was largely estimating the costs, and the recommended change to schedules would result in huge safety issues and mandatory overtime.

Justin Connors, 5138 NW 51 Avenue, Coconut Creek, said leaving the interlocal agreement with Margate would create undue financial risk as well as safety hazards for workers and residents. He outlined concerns, including the proposed schedule, decreased purchasing power, and negotiation issues.

Deputy City Clerk Bowers stated six (6) messages were received via email after the deadline and would be included in the written record for the meeting and forwarded to the Commissioners as part of the record for their review.

DISCUSSION – TRANSITIONING FIRE/EMS SERVICES FROM MARGATE/COCONUT CREEK FIRE RESCUE TO COCONUT CREEK FIRE RESCUE

Karen Brooks, City Manager, conferred an overview of the plan to move police and fire dispatch services from the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) to the City of Coral Springs, an endeavor that begun three (3) years ago. She explained in order to make that change, transitioning from Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue to Coconut Creek Fire Rescue was a necessary step, and reviewed a *PowerPoint* presentation covering the history of fire rescue in Coconut Creek, cost comparisons of options, and an implementation timeline for the proposal.

City Manager Brooks explained if consensus was given, the plan would be to go live with Coconut Creek Fire Rescue in October 2021 and Police/Fire Dispatch in October 2022. She stated the next steps would be to create an implementation team with members of the City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Fire Administration, Finance, Information Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR), and Public Works.

City Manager Brooks outlined the expectation to create a fire department that sets high standards and is accountable, with the goal to provide exceptional service with hometown pride. She noted the topic had been discussed and carefully reviewed for over three (3) years, and that the decision was not being made on a whim.

Mayor Sarbone explained he would call on each of the Commissioners for comment in voting order.

Commissioner Welch stated all of the City's employees are special to the Commission, especially the first responders and the services that they provide. She thanked all who provided comments, and said she spoke with a number of residents and firefighters to gather input ahead of the meeting. She commented that she also wished the meeting could be held differently, but COVID-19 prevented that from happening. She stated the root of the discussion was in the promise to improve the dispatch system for the first responders. She explained action by Margate and lack of financial metrics had forced Coconut Creek into a decision to move forward separately.

Commissioner Welch stated the addition of the third station and the added staff would be a further enhancement for the residents of Coconut Creek. She said she felt to move forward with a change to 911 dispatch, the City was not really given a choice. Commissioner Welch stated she looked forward to working with the existing first responders as a part of the Coconut Creek Fire Department.

In response to questions from Commissioner Welch, City Manager Brooks outlined the planned process to maintain an ISO Rating of one (1) as a separate fire department and addressed concerns regarding tax increases. She stated the fire assessment analysis is periodically updated to ensure that ratepayers are assessed based on services provided, and increases already planned, not as a result of the separation, would continue.

Commissioner Welch and City Manager Brooks discussed the City's fire assessment in comparison with other communities and the methodology used to determine rates, as well resident concerns that new equipment would be required if the department were to be separated. City Manager Brooks stated the City of Coconut Creek owns its own trucks and have already budgeted and funded equipment for the new fire station in the center of the City.

Commissioner Welch noted the City of Coconut Creek had experienced a 94 percent increase in fire and EMS service costs over the past decade.

Commissioner Tooley addressed public comments regarding the timeline of the discussion and the events which had led to the discussion to separate the department. She pointed out the current meeting was supposed to be held in early March but had to be pushed back due to COVID-19 and noted there were workshops held between the cities and options explored over a period of years. She stated all of the Commissioners for Margate and Coconut Creek have had issues with the dispatch system at some point. She asserted the City of Coconut Creek had to go with Coral Springs for dispatch, as she believed it would save residents' lives. She addressed the need for stations and interlocal agreements with surrounding communities. Commissioner Tooley stated she was not in favor of the 48-hour schedule but wanted to learn more about it.

City Manager Brooks noted the schedule was a recommendation by the consultant who prepared the Transitional Study for consideration. She stated when costs were estimated internally by staff, the 48-hour schedule was not utilized.

Commissioner Tooley stated she did not believe there would be a Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue firefighter without a job once the transition occurs. She said it was a tough decision, but she thinks the residents will like it.

Commissioner Belvedere said she had listened carefully to the residents' concerns but was not sure they saw the connection with the dispatch issues. She stated she had visited both the BSO dispatch center and the Coral Springs dispatch and saw a distinct difference in professionalism and training. She stated automatic aid between the cities would continue to exist with separated departments. She said

the change was in the best interest of the residents.

Vice Mayor Rydell stated the issue did not come out of nowhere, but he disagreed with the way the meeting was being held and the process for moving the issue forward. He stated the issue contemplated a significant portion of the budget, and the residents deserved an open forum to discuss the issue. He questioned the methods used to notice the special meeting and the lack of face-to-face consensus building in an online forum. He stated he did not take issue with the substance of the discussion but did not see the mode as open and transparent governing. Vice Mayor Rydell stated the body could agree that something had to change regarding dispatch. He said he was not willing to make the same mistakes as those made when going to the current system by not giving the discussion proper weight. He expressed concern that he had not been able to sit down with staff to go over his in-depth questions like he normally would with an issue of this magnitude. He asked Mayor Sarbone to gauge the comfort level of the Commission before moving forward.

Mayor Sarbone asked for a poll of the Commission regarding the format. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to continue with a discussion and vote. Mayor Sarbone noted the consultant, Ken Riddle with Public Consulting Group, was on the line to answer issues regarding the Transitional Study Report.

Vice Mayor Rydell asserted his first issue was that the Transitional Study Report seemed predicated on a work ratio which was happening nowhere else in south Florida. Vice Mayor Rydell reviewed his concerns and received answers from staff and Mr. Riddle, including:

- The study predicated on a work ratio (48/96 schedule) which was not being used anywhere else in South Florida
 - Mr. Riddle stated the schedule was utilized in Marco Island, Florida and was found favorable on the west coast because first responders were able to rest more. He said the only documented issue was a safety concern in systems with high call volumes.
- The plan did not account for additional apparatus which would be required.
 - Mr. Riddle responded that no additional apparatus would be required because of the schedule.
 - Fire Marshal Jeff Gary said he did not know the exact number, but there were reserve apparatus and an agreement with BSO to provide a reserve aerial apparatus. He stated there was a five (5) year plan to obtain backups.
- There would be no backup apparatus in the first year.
 - Fire Marshal Gary explained a reserve rescue truck would be available at Station 94.
 - Mr. Riddle asserted the City might not own it, but they would have access to reserve apparatus through interlocal agreements.
- No breakdown of staffing costs
 - City Manager Brooks explained the staff plan included staff costs for one (1) person each in HR, IT, purchasing, and payroll. Vice Mayor Rydell asked for a cost breakdown.
- Nothing in writing from Coral Springs regarding the dispatch agreement
 - City Manager Karen Brooks explained the agreement that would be before the Commission on May 14 was reviewed and approved by Coral Springs on a staff level.

Vice Mayor Rydell stated there had not been a forum for Coconut Creek Commissioners and Coral Spring Commissioners to communicate regarding the plan, and added he was aware of one Coral Springs Commissioner who had gone on record stating he does not agree. He asked if the timeline of the transition would be impacted by putting off a vote until June or July to address the issues in a more detailed capacity.

City Manager Brooks stated Coral Springs staff had indicated they preferred the Coconut Creek Fire Service be up and running prior to taking over dispatch but conceded to doing it concurrently. She

explained the need for time to implement the transition.

Vice Mayor Rydell and City Manager Brooks discussed other regional options which had been considered and increases to fire assessments. City Manager Brooks stated whether they stayed with Margate or went in-house, the effect on fire assessments would be the same.

The Commissioners and staff discussed the fire assessment fees generated by Coconut Creek and Margate. City Manager Brooks explained the communities use a different methodology to determine the rates collected.

Mayor Sarbone stated even if the Commission gives consensus for City Manager Brooks to begin putting together an implementation team, he would be willing to entertain discussions with Margate if they said they were going to Coral Springs for dispatch.

City Manager Brooks outlined hiring needs and the hiring process, stating Coconut Creek would need between 72 and 82 personnel.

Mayor Sarbone stated his major points were cost, dispatch, and personnel, and noted he had been satisfied on all three (3).

Vice Mayor Rydell reiterated that he did not believe he or the other Commissioners had been given enough information to decide, nor had they provided enough information to the community. He stated the first responders agree that the dispatch system is flawed, and noted their union voted to move dispatch, and that it is a priority to him.

The Commissioners and staff discussed moving forward with an implementation team while gathering additional data. Mayor Sarbone noted just because the implementation team starts does not mean it 100 percent ends up finishing.

Commissioner Belvedere stated continuing education and explanation for the residents in retrospect would alleviate doubts and misconceptions. She said she thought they needed to continue with the course and not hold up the agreement with Coral Springs.

Commissioner Welch said she agreed with Mayor Sarbone that the issue is all about dispatch. She stated as much as she holds the firefighters in esteem, they are not the decision makers. She said only the City of Margate can move the needle, and clearly, they are not going to do so. She stated the change was about protecting the firefighters, and the cost would be similar. She said she appreciated the comments from the other Commissioners and the public, but she firmly believed this was the way to get new dispatch. She asserted she would like to vote to get the implementation team started.

Commissioner Tooley stated she received a text from someone in the fire department saying Coconut Creek does not have any spare vehicles at this time. She said dispatch was very important to her, and referenced a shooting as an example of the safety factor of continuing with the current dispatch system. She stated for the sake of the police officers, firefighters, and residents, the plan must start now.

The Commissioners and staff discussed open dialogue with the City of Margate regarding the contract. Mayor Sarbone agreed there should be an ongoing dialogue but asserted that did not mean he was backing off on moving forward with plans to create a City of Coconut Creek Fire Department. He asked that specific questions and requests for additional information be provided in writing so that City Manager Brooks could address them.

Vice Mayor Rydell stated he would like to see a detailed breakdown of the numbers in the cost

comparison provided, including staffing levels not just in the Fire Department but also in City Hall.

Commissioner Belvedere acknowledged the emails and calls from residents and asked that additional information regarding what the City was doing and why be accessible.

Commissioner Welch agreed that a timeframe should be set and the process toward implementation should be continued. She thanked Deputy City Clerk Bowers for working tirelessly to make the meeting happen in a seamless manner. Mayor Sarbone echoed the thanks on behalf of the entire Commission.

MOTION: Rydell – To table the issue of transitioning fire rescue services from Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue to Coconut Creek Fire Rescue.

The Motion failed for lack of a second.

City Attorney Pyburn asked for consensus regarding authorizing City Manager Brooks to move forward with implementation of transitioning fire rescue services from Margate/Coconut Creek Fire Rescue to Coconut Creek Fire Rescue.

A consensus was reached, with Vice Mayor Rydell voicing his dissent.

Mayor Sarbone asked that the cost breakdown requested by Vice Mayor Rydell be provided at the next Commission meeting on May 14.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Transcribed by: C. Parkinson, Prototype

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Date