



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 14, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2022-0414WS

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Joshua Rydell
Vice Mayor Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
Deputy City Attorney Kathy Mehaffey
Interim City Clerk Marianne Bowers

Mayor Rydell noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present. He explained that the meeting material was available online, and the meeting was being broadcast live on the City's website and YouTube channel.

DISCUSSION – FISCAL YEAR 2023 (FY2023) BUDGET

Budget and Grants Manager Kisha Holland explained the purpose of the Workshop was for the City Commission to share any programs, services, or capital improvement projects they would like staff to include in the draft FY 2023 Budget. She stated that the updated strategic plan, Vision 2030, had been completed with input from the community, staff, and the Commission, and would be incorporated into the budget process. She discussed the five (5) key focus areas identified within the plan and the list of objectives developed to address each area. Ms. Holland opened the floor for Commission input.

Commissioner Tooley requested that a S.W.A.T van be added to the list and noted there were likely grants available. She noted she would also like to see redevelopment of older areas in the City and commented on the need for single-family housing instead of townhomes and apartments. She stated she believed the City does a good job of communication, but she would like for the City to host two meetings a year with the public to provide an update on City happenings.

Budget and Grants Manager Holland proceeded with an overview of each focus area individually and asked for any input to be included in the draft budget for each of the following areas.

Adaptable Progressive Mobility

Vice Mayor Welch stated issues surrounding Florida's Turnpike were the major focus for this area, including continuing to keep the community educated and informed on the proposed expansion project. She commented that bicycle lanes were being utilized by other types of vehicles and people, and suggested signage to keep safety in mind. She suggested improvement to the community public transportation system by promoting the value of the free community buses. She commented on the public's response to traffic calming devices and suggested sharing data with residents regarding positive impacts of the devices reducing incidents.

Mayor Rydell agreed that an event or activity related to promoting the City's Butterfly Express, such as a scavenger hunt, and involving multiple departments would be a benefit to the community. He asked staff to provide an update on the pilot program with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to install lights on Winston Park Boulevard to delineate the bike lanes and whether the pilot program was successful. He noted the look was unique and beneficial, and asked if there was an opportunity to bolster the program and investigate further grant funding or a capital improvement program for future years.

Commissioner Tooley commented that the bollard lighting at the Community Center had not been operational for some time and stated she would like to see those upgraded. She added she would also like to see an expansion of the availability of electric vehicle charging stations.

High Performance Government

Commissioner Tooley stated she liked the City's partnerships with local businesses. She commented that the City could improve community outreach for community and public meetings to increase engagement, and noted she liked the idea of the Ambassador program to expand community involvement.

Commissioner Railey commented the big issue was awareness and engagement between the community and government. She stated the City should be promoting awareness that the Commission is open to any suggestions from residents and to involvement from young people.

Vice Mayor Welch stated she hoped that next year the Commission could get involved in the budget and strategic planning process earlier. She noted potential opportunities for apprenticeships with local schools, the growth of local talent, and discussed funding for internships and career development for local youth.

Mayor Rydell stated he believed the City was heading in the right direction with communication and community outreach. He noted he would like to make it easier on staff to share updates and would like to see an investment in technology for that purpose. He commented implementing an employee program similar to the Behavioral Health Access Program (BHAP) in Coral Springs. He noted improvements could be made to the City's insurance, and the City could educate the community on employee wellness programs.

Safety and Quality of Life

Commissioner Tooley stated she would like to see an increase to the Police Department down the road. She noted she would like to see Fire and Police combined into a Public Safety Complex. She added that she looked forward to the move to Coral Springs dispatch and commented on an opportunity for community education related to fraud. Commissioner Tooley stated she had received a number of calls on bicycles operating unsafely and added that speeding also needed to continue to be addressed. She noted residents need to be engaged in the continued fight against the proposed Turnpike and landfill expansions.

Commissioner Railey agreed with the need to educate residents on fraud and shared a story of an individual who had fallen victim to a scam. She stated she would like to see an expansion of the lectures series related to human behavior and would like to add a cultural and arts center to the wish list as a place to hold lectures. She noted the need to continue focusing on cyber security. Commissioner Railey commented on the timing of traffic lights and if staff could coordinate with Broward County on that issue and suggested more police presence.

Vice Mayor Welch commented on the importance of the Police Department maintaining its accreditation status and suggested a media blitz surrounding the transfer of 911 dispatch services on October 3. She stated she would like to revisit installation of bulletproof glass in the City Hall lobby for enhanced safety for staff. City Manager Brooks explained bids for the installation of bulletproof glass were received and the

project was proceeding. Vice Mayor Welch stated she would like to see parking lot lights replaced with LED outside of all community centers to increase safety. She asked whether there were plans to expand the animal services program, as it was very popular. Continuing, Vice Mayor Welch noted the success of the culture lectures and asked that a session on the City's history be added. She referenced Veterans Park and suggested opportunities to utilize the park more and honor veterans. She stated she would like to see continued public input on public art.

Mayor Rydell commented on prioritizing body cameras for the Police Department and noted the department's vehicle cameras were ahead of their time. He stated investment in the Police Department should be done with a focus on broader services, such as a mental health coordinator and additional victim and children's advocates. He shared details of a program which had been successful in other municipalities in support of special needs residents. He spoke in support of investment in Flock Safety to reduce crime using real time data and statistics. He suggested an expansion of social programs by the Fire Department and Police Department. Continuing, Mayor Rydell thanked Utilities and Engineering for sending information to residents on water quality and stated it was important to stay on top of that. He noted a neighboring municipality's program to focus on local small businesses in its media. He stated he would support adding a person to the Community Relations Division, as it would directly lead to quality of life. Commissioner Tooley agreed with adding a person to the communications team.

Vice Mayor Welch added a request she had received from a resident asking for additional special needs adult programming through Parks and Recreation.

Due to time restraints, the final two (2) categories were addressed together.

Smart Growth and Sustainable Environment

Commissioner Tooley stated the availability of green space was important to the residents, commenting the residents love the outdoor concerts. She noted a small museum or lecture on Coconut Creek's history was important. She commented on the importance of addressing climate change.

Commissioner Railey stated the environment was paramount, and any means of saving energy was the future. She highlighted the ongoing issue of expansion of the Turnpike and the need for continued education of the residents on potential quality of life impacts. She also noted the need to educate residents on the landfill.

Vice Mayor Welch commented on the development of the MainStreet area, and made a suggestion related to opportunities for expansion of affordable and workforce housing. She commented on the ongoing landfill issue and asked that the City look at asking vendors not to use styrofoam at City events. Vice Mayor Welch noted the Race to Zero initiative was an opportunity to communicate to the residents and shared a suggestion from a resident to host a community tour of butterfly gardens. She commented on the possibility of obtaining a glass crusher for recycling through a pilot project.

Mayor Rydell stated exploration of a glass crusher pilot project had his complete support. He added that he would be supportive of an expenditure for a unique recycling effort of some type. He discussed the need to push for household cardboard pickup. Continuing, Mayor Rydell noted the MainStreet project must be better communicated to the public.

Commissioner Railey asked whether glass collection could be added to the Recycling Center, and Mayor Rydell suggested the Commission continue the discussion at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date