



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: December 3, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2020-1203WS

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lou 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
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

Mayor Sarbone explained that Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 20-52, 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 a quorum physically present and participation by two (2) Commissioners using communications media technology consistent with the Governor's Order and State law. City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

DISCUSSION – 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes noted that Beth Lerner, Chief Legislative Assistant to newly-elected State Representative Christine Hunschofsky, was present and Senator Tina Polsky, District 29, was in route. Ms. Hughes explained that the proposed 2021 State Legislative Agenda was before the Commission for discussion and would be scheduled for final adoption at the Commission meeting following the Workshop. Ms. Hughes gave a brief recap of the past year's work with Legislators and the City's lobbyist, including multiple home rule issues, funding opportunities, and COVID-19 related impacts. She added that the Legislative Agenda had been updated to address the ongoing issues of 2020, with home rule rising to the top of priorities. She highlighted the Seminole Compact, Turnpike-widening, and the CARES Act.

Senator Polsky introduced herself and spoke briefly, inviting the Commissioners and residents to reach out to her office with any issues.

Ms. Hughes explained the 2021 State Legislative Agenda, noting a number of items had been moved to the watch list, which totaled 25 items. She introduced Lauren Jackson and Candice Ericks from Ericks Consultants, Inc. Ms. Ericks spoke about the impacts of COVID-19 at the state and local level and provided a snapshot of the situation going into the legislative session, explaining there were seven (7) new members of the delegation and the importance of educating those members of Coconut Creek's issues. Ms. Jackson added that new leadership was in place in the House and Senate and that there would be a heavy focus on sea level rise, flood mitigation, child welfare reform, and deregulation. Ms. Jackson highlighted several key issues that the consultant team was following, including:

- Appropriations following last year's budget that funded historically underfunded issues and changes precipitated by COVID-19, including cuts to appropriations that were approved for the City's water storage tank rehabilitation project;
- A ranking system to call attention to water projects outside the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP);
- Grant funding for the fire station and other public safety facilities;
- Exploring flexibility in policy for appropriations;
- Housing funding and legislation related to linkage fee preemption; and
- Building Code, development, and building inspection issues, including the importance of not expanding the private provider role in the building inspection process.

Utilities & Engineering Director Osama Elshami asked the consultants to connect with him regarding education on water-related issues and funding priorities. Discussion ensued regarding State Housing Initiatives Partnership program (SHIP) funding and the potential for a compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Commissioner Welch asked realistically what items on the agenda were places the City could make the most progress with the Legislature, writing letters and gathering support. Ms. Jackson stated she believed flood mitigation projects and water projects were still good items to pursue, but as far as the Legislative Agenda, she believed it would be necessary to watch what happens as the session starts. She reviewed examples from the previous session to keep an eye on, including sovereign immunity, vacation rentals, and Florida Retirement System (FRS) reforms.

Vice Mayor Rydell asked for feedback on the lack of bipartisan consensus to restrict business-oriented things which would help to bring people out of the current economy. Ms. Jackson responded she believed the trend would continue toward deregulation. Discussion ensued regarding contact with Legislators and the differences in the dynamic this year. Ms. Ericks noted the decision had not yet been made about letting the public into the Capitol, so a lot of questions remained unanswered regarding the challenges of COVID-19, including the possibility of virtual attendance during the session.

Ms. Jackson outlined additional ways the Commissioners could lend their voices in support of positive issues, including an e-fairness bill and graduation rates, noting a focus on early learning and literacy rates was on leadership's priority list. Ms. Ericks provided a brief update on the proposed Turnpike-widening project and efforts to share the City's concerns while the environmental study and funding remain pending.

Ms. Hughes noted that home rule remained a top priority. She commented that the solid waste issue and support for the independent district was included in the Legislative Agenda, and the consultants were aware of the City's position so they would be prepared if it came up. Commissioner Tooley stated that the Solid Waste Working Group was reorganizing due to changes after the election and said group members had concerns about the independent district passing the Legislature. Discussion ensued regarding the implementation of an independent district, including the difficulties with a local bill and possible precedent that may assist with getting it approved.

Mayor Sarbone asked if any of the Commissioners had additions or changes to the Legislative Agenda. The Commissioners and staff provided closing comments, and there were no recommended changes to the draft Legislative Agenda.

Senator Polsky made final comments, noting committee assignments had come out earlier in the day and she was on the Community Affairs Committee, along with five (5) others. She stated she and Representative Hunschofsky were eager to work together for the community and were accessible in case of any issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Transcribed by: C. Parkinson, Prototype

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated