



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

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

**Date: February 10, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2022-0210WS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
Interim City Clerk Marianne Bowers

ALSO PRESENT:

Bernadette Hughes, Assistant to the City Manager
Theresa Brier, Deputy District Director, Congressman Ted Deutch's Office
James Crum, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates
Harry Glenn, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates

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

DISCUSSION – 2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes opened the discussion, introducing Theresa Brier from Congressman Ted Deutch's Office and sharing details of the ways in which Congressman Deutch and his staff had supported the City's Legislative Agenda over the past year. Ms. Hughes discussed the City's approach to legislative lobbying over the year and the advocacy done on behalf of the residents. She briefly reviewed the role of the Federal lobbyists in working with staff to address areas of concern and identify resources.

Ms. Brier thanked the City for the event commemorating the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy and shared Congressman Deutch's appreciation. She stated she would be bringing the notes from the workshop and discussions with City staff back to share with Congressman Deutch and his staff.

James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates, the City's Federal Legislative consultants, reviewed the recently updated Legislative Agenda and discussed efforts to look for opportunities for federal funding for the City over the past year. He highlighted key issues from the dynamic 2021 Agenda, including advocating, along with City staff and the League of Cities, on the unique impacts COVID-19 had at the municipal level and the need for funding to be allocated and distributed directly to cities. He explained, as a result, \$8.6 million was scheduled to be distributed to Coconut Creek over a two (2) year period through the American

Rescue Plan Act.

Mr. Crum discussed the passage of the infrastructure bill in November and stated he had met with staff to identify eight (8) individual City projects that align with programs in the infrastructure bill. He explained the next steps would be to create a strategy to seek funding for those projects as grants become available and deadlines are identified. Continuing, Mr. Crum stated FEMA's public grant program played a large role through the pandemic and discussed the moving target of criteria for reimbursement. He explained his firm's efforts to pass this information to City staff to allow them to maximize ongoing submissions for COVID-related costs. He reviewed support of the Fire Department as it built up its capabilities in 2021 and efforts to align with past and future FEMA grant applications, including obtaining letters of support where appropriate.

Mr. Crum shared an update on the advocacy surrounding landfill emissions, which the City had been involved with for the past five (5) years and shared his team's role in moving the emissions regulations forward. He discussed next steps to ensure compliance.

Commissioner Welch asked for clarification on Business Rent Assistance programs and asked whether there was support at the Federal level for recycling assistance and internship programs. Mr. Crum responded briefly.

Vice Mayor Rydell asked that Van Scoyoc Associates provide clarity in dollars they had specifically assisted the City in securing. Mr. Crum responded regarding advocacy related to the CARES Act, and also explained efforts related to obtaining earmark funds in the infrastructure bill, identifying changes to criteria for FEMA grants, and securing funding for the Fire Rescue Department. Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates, provided additional detail.

Commissioner Railey asked about any legislation supporting senior citizens. Mr. Crum discussed programs in transportation and stated he would provide a write up for the Commissioners on the subject.

Mayor Tooley added her thoughts on supporting seniors, who were finding it difficult to get by and stated she would like to see additional advocacy on the issue. Mr. Glenn discussed potential legislation addressing prescription drug prices.

Mayor Tooley commented on the issue of electric cars, and Mr. Glenn responded regarding funds in the infrastructure bill and research on improving the batteries for electric cars.

Mayor Tooley addressed the need to encourage more manufacturing to come back to the United States. She invited closing comments, and there were no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Marianne Bowers, CMC
Interim City Clerk

Date