



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: January 16, 2019
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rydell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

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

3. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF FIRE/EMS AND E911 DISPATCH SERVICES

Mayor Rydell welcomed all in attendance and introduced City Manager Mary Blasi, who explained that the City's contract for fire/emergency medical services (EMS) was set to expire on September 30, 2019. She mentioned that there had been discussions regarding the possibility of a four-city regional fire system, and explained that the City's options for fire services included exercising the extension provisions of the current agreement with the City of Margate, creating a Coconut Creek Fire Department, or continuing discussions for a regional fire system.

Mayor Rydell recognized the Margate City Officials who were in attendance and asked City Manager Blasi for an update on the discussions with the City of Margate. She noted that she spoke with Margate City Manager Sam May and the Margate Fire Union President Kevin DelaCova, who both indicated that they were in favor of extending the existing agreement. She noted that staff had also spoken with the City of Coral Springs regarding E911 dispatch services and regional fire services, but work on a regional agreement was expected to take longer than the nine months left on the current agreement with Margate. She displayed a map depicting the locations of fire stations in Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Margate, and Parkland and discussed the Comprehensive Analysis of Fire Services Report that was completed for the City.

Mayor Rydell mentioned the recent appointment of a new Broward County Sheriff and spoke about the ongoing issues with the E911 dispatch services. He commented that he was in favor of moving forward with a northwest Broward County regionalization for dispatch services and continuing the existing fire/EMS services agreement with the City of Margate to provide time to negotiate the details of regionalization.

Commissioner Sarbone spoke about the issues with the current E911 dispatch system and the possibility of a northwest Broward County regional system. He commented on addressing the infrastructure gaps that would be needed for regionalization, including another fire station in the City. He stated that he was in favor of extending the existing fire/EMS services agreement with the City of Margate.

Commissioner Tooley commented that she was in favor of extending the existing agreement with the City of Margate and spoke about the addition of Fire Station 113 in the City to improve services. She discussed issues with the current E911 dispatch system and expressed the need for the cities to work together.

Commissioner Belvedere noted the labor issues that would have to be worked out for regionalization and thanked the fire fighters for their service. She spoke about issues with the E911 dispatch system and response to calls for service in the Wynmoor community. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Belvedere was in favor of a regional system if the labor issues could be resolved, and she was in favor of extending the existing agreement with the City of Margate.

Vice Mayor Welch thanked all who were in attendance and who shared their input on the matter. She noted the issues with the current E911 dispatch system and commented that she did not want to act too quickly with the change in leadership at the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO). She was in favor of continuing the existing agreement with the City of Margate. She spoke about the Comprehensive Analysis of Fire Services Report and commented on the need for a central fire station in the City and additional personnel to improve service. Margate-Coconut Creek Fire Chief Dan Booker noted that seven additional positions were hired to help fill the gap. Discussion ensued regarding the City's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 1, the highest rating.

Metro-Broward Professional Fire Fighters Union District 14 President Kevin DelaCova spoke on behalf of the District 14 membership and stated that they were in favor of continuing the partnership with Coconut Creek and renewing contract for one year. He responded to a question from Mayor Rydell, stating that the membership would support fire services regionalization provided that all labor issues could be resolved. Discussion ensued regarding labor negotiation issues related to differences in fire fighter benefits among the local departments.

City Manager Blasi noted that the City's budget includes the addition of a temporary fire station, Fire Station 113, behind the Home Depot in the MainStreet project area. She noted that staff was considering putting a rescue at that location within the next 12 months, and this would be negotiated with the City of Margate. She spoke about discussions with the City of Margate for joint dispatch services and explained the associated costs. She mentioned that the City of Coral Springs expected to have a proposal to the City within the next two weeks and explained the preliminary cost estimates for dispatch services from Coral Springs. Discussion ensued regarding current dispatch services provided by BSO.

Margate Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano thanked the City for having the workshop and commented that he would like the Margate City Commission and Coconut Creek City Commission to meet jointly to discuss regionalization issues. Discussion ensued.

Consensus was given for City Manager Blasi to negotiate an extension of the current agreement with the City of Margate for fire/EMS services to be approved before the end of February.

Discussion ensued regarding the temporary central fire station and improving performance measurements. City Manager Blasi noted that Police Chief Albert “Butch” Arenal reached out to the new Broward County Sheriff, Gregory Tony, to discuss dispatch services. Discussion ensued regarding dispatch call takers and proper training.

Consensus was given to hold a public meeting with the City of Margate City Commission within the next 60 days. Fire Chief Booker suggested that labor representatives for each city be included in the regionalization discussions and noted that he was in favor of adding the central rescue within the next year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Transcribed by Marianne Bowers

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated