



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: May 21, 2015
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Tooley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL

Present upon roll call:

Mayor Becky Tooley
Vice Mayor Mikkie Belvedere
Commissioner Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Sandra Welch
Commissioner Joshua Rydell
City Manager Mary Blasi
City Attorney Terrill Pyburn
Leslie Wallace May, City Clerk

3. DISCUSSION

15-095 Town Hall State of the City / Resident FY16 Budget Input

City Manager Mary Blasi opened the meeting. She explained that staff is working diligently on the FY 2016 Budget and would like input from the public regarding their concerns, suggestions, or any new program recommendations. She introduced the following directors and staff members who would be presenting a PowerPoint presentation on their department and current and proposed projects:

Karen Brooks, Director of Finance and Administrative
Shelia Rose, Director of Sustainable Development
Jim Berkman, Director of Public Works
Osama Elshami, Director of Utilities and Engineering
Greg Lees, Interim Chief of Police
Lieutenant John Leonard
Ron Zancanata, Fire Marshal
Francisco Porras, Chief Information Officer
Yvonne Lopez, Director of Community Relations
Linda Wiederspan, Director of Parks and Recreation

City Manager Blasi provided comments and discussed the local and national awards that the City received this year:

- Florida Department of Health - Healthy Weight Community Champion
- Playful City USA

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- Gold Level Certification from the Florida Green Building Coalition
- Complete Streets Community Award from Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Government Finance Officers Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for FY2013
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award with Special Recognition for Performance Management for FY2015
- Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for FY2013 Comprehensive Annual Report
- Achievement of Excellence in Procurement
- Telly Award – Bronze Winner Creek TV, and
- The Sun Sentinel's Top Work Places in South Florida.

Karen Brooks, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, gave a financial overview and discussed FY2015 General Fund Revenue, and Expenditure Budget, and the FY2016 Budget Process Calendar. She noted that September 12 is the First Public Budget Hearing to tentatively adopt the FY2016 budget, and September 24 is the Second Public Budget Hearing to adopt the final budget. She discussed the Property Value and Tax Millage summary, the upcoming rate study for the fire assessment for single family and multi-family homes, and the utilities rate study related to water and sewer rates.

Sheila Rose, Director of Sustainable Development, provided an update and discussed the following new development within the City:

- D.R. Horton Headquarters;
- The Coconut Creek Medical Center;
- Cusano's Bakery;
- American Top Team Training Facility;
- Long Pines Townhomes;
- Midtown Residences – first new project in the MainStreet project area;
- Lennar Townhomes; and
- New Businesses to the Promenade - Bar Louie, It's Sugar, Orangetheory Fitness, Le Macaron French Pastries, and Silverspot Theater

She provided comments about the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program, the Fix-It-Up Program, and the First Time Homebuyers Program.

Jim Berkman, Director of Public Works, provided comments about Capital Improvement Projects and enhancement projects. He discussed the following ongoing Capital Improvement Projects:

- New Fire Station 50 on Coconut Creek Parkway and NW 45 Avenue;
- Fire Station 94 Remodel;
- City Hall Remodel;
- City Entryways Signs;
- Hillsboro Boulevard and Copans Road median enhancements; and
- Parks Improvement Projects – Sports lighting at Gerber Park, playground equipment replacement at Lakeside Park, and pavilion roof replacements at Cypress Park.

Osama Elshami, Director of Utilities and Engineering, provided an overview of the Utilities and Engineering Department which consists of three divisions: 1) Utilities - Water and Wastewater, 2) Transportation, Streets and Stormwater and 3) Engineering. He discussed

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the status of the following projects:

- South Creek dredging;
- Educational Corridor Improvements along Coconut Creek Parkway;
- The project to run overhead utilities lines underground;
- Traffic signal at Winston Park;
- NW 74 Street water main extension; and
- The proposed City Roadway Comprehensive Plan, a seven (7) year project.

Greg Lees, Interim Chief of Police, provided remarks and noted that the Police Department is currently staffed with 98 police officers, four part-time school resource officers, and 37 civilian employees. He explained that the City has six police zones and the Police Department provides full public safety service to the City. He discussed the following projects that the Department is involved with throughout the community: License Plate Recognition project, Community Outreach, Crime Spotters, and the School Resource Officers program.

Rodney Zancanata, Fire Marshal discussed the primary functions of the department. He noted the department is very involved in the following programs: Public Education, Enhanced Classes – CPR and CERT, and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Exercise/Drills. He explained the City is contracted with the City of Margate for fire rescue services and noted that the Margate-Coconut Creek Fire Department is an ISO Class 1 Fire Department.

Francisco Porras, Director of Information Technology, discussed the primary function of the IT Department and noted this department provides the information technology infrastructure to all the departments. The IT department embraces new technology and is collaborating with all of the departments to see what can be used city-wide.

Yvonne Lopez, Director of Community Relations, discussed the responsibilities of the Community Relations Department and noted the department handles the marketing/public relations of the City. She provided a brief overview of the City's website and highlighted the most popular pages. She also discussed the Cocogram newsletter, and several social media features to stay informed with City related business/events including the new *Speak Up Coconut Creek*. Additionally, she provided comments about the Citizen's Academy and Creek TV.

Linda Wiederspan, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided remarks about the Parks and Recreation Department. She discussed the various fitness programs and the special/cultural events offered to the community as well as the Playful USA City designation. She explained the outcome of the resident satisfaction survey and noted the Parks and Recreation Department placed in the 98 percentile for its programs and facilities. She provided comments about the Windmill Park Improvements/Expansion project and noted that there is an upcoming second public meeting with the City Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members.

Mary Blasi, City Manager, provided a brief update on the Monarch Hill Landfill issues. She summarized the recent Broward County Commission meeting and their motion to file the City's Settlement Agreement. The City was hoping that the County would prepare a resolution incorporating the City's Settlement Agreement into their Global Amendment Agreement, but that did not happen. Per the City's agreement with Waste Management, the City would be hiring an Environmental Engineer to monitor landfill activities to ensure that

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the allowable tonnage is not exceeded and to monitor all County applications for expansions and variances in the height of the landfill. She discussed the details of the approved settlement agreement between the City and Waste Management.

The Mayor opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Wendy Erwin, 4061 NW 54 Court, inquired about police patrol while on vacation. Discussion ensued. She also inquired about the traffic signals on Lyons Road and Hillsboro Boulevard driving westbound. Osama Elshami, Director of Utilities and Engineering, explained that the traffic lights are maintained by Broward County and if there are any issues, the City of Coconut Creek Engineering Department is the liaison. He encouraged Ms. Erwin to contact the City of Coconut Creek Engineering Department if there are any problems in the future, and the Department will then contact the County. Discussion ensued regarding speeding and radar speed signs.

Denise Schuler, 4412 NW 43 Drive, provided comments about the traffic concerns on Wiles Road and 39th Avenue.

Nadir Rodriguez, 4510 NW 61 Street, commended the City Manager for an excellent job with the budget. She stated that the community is experiencing an enormous amount of burglaries in the Winston Park neighborhoods and that there were two armed robberies earlier that day. She noted that Sunrise Estates recently implemented a neighborhood watch program in the community. She stated that she was happy to see the allocation of funds for the Police Department, but wanted to see more allocations to increase the police presence within the community.

Interim Chief Lees agreed with Ms. Rodriguez. He noted the Police Department is well aware of burglaries in the north end of the City, and the Department has placed a lot of resources in the area. A brief discussion ensued about the concerns related to the recent burglaries.

Wendy Erwin asked about the house on 41st Terrace that was recently burglarized. She commented about it being a hospice home. Shelia Rose, Director of Sustainable Development, provided her email address and asked Ms. Erwin to send her the home's address so she could look into the matter. Discussion continued regarding the recent burglary to this property, and Interim Chief Lees stated that there have been about five arrests in the north end of the City within the last week. He encouraged the residents to contact the Police Department to report suspicious incidents.

Patricia Duaybes, 4106 Oxbow Drive, stated someone has been tagging the light poles on Wiles Road heading west from NW 39th Avenue. Interim Chief Lees responded that the Police Department will look into this matter.

Tim Blye, 4220 NW 62 Court, thanked Commissioner Rydell, the Police Department and the City for attending the Winston Park Homeowners Association meeting. He stated he wanted to clarify what he heard regarding the potential light signal on Lyons Road and St. Andrews. He sent a letter to the City about 18 months ago and was told by Broward County that a traffic signal at this intersection was not justified. Osama Elshami, Director of Utilities and Engineering, explained the approval process for the light signals on Lyons and St. Andrews. He noted that the design is being done, and the City is working on this project.

Cathy Thomas, 6274 NW 45 Terrace, asked about the ratio of the police officers in the City.

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Interim Police Chief Lees noted that the Police Department currently has 98 police officers. He explained the International Association of Chiefs of Police ratio suggestions for a City the size of Coconut Creek, and the City is meeting that ratio.

Commissioner Welch noted that she asked the Finance Director to supply the Commission with the per capita for the surrounding communities of similar size for the Commission to discuss at a future meeting.

Ms. Thomas said she reviewed the budget and noticed that the Police Department has a large part of the budget. She stated it is essential for the City to communicate with the community immediately when a crime occurs in the area. She mentioned that the City of Boynton Beach has a watch commander on duty to send a message out to the officers to get a quick synopsis, and then sends the summary to the Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer immediately places the information on their website and Facebook page. She stated the City of Coconut Creek is the best city that she has ever lived, and the City Commission, Police, and City staff care about the residents. She felt that when the City prepares the budget, there needs to be consideration of hiring more police officers.

City Manager Blasi and Mayor Tooley provided comments about the South Creek Crime Watch program that was in place two years ago. Mayor Tooley thanked the residents and encouraged them to call the Police when they see suspicious activity. Discussion ensued about community involvement.

Kenny, 1665 NW 45 Terrace, inquired about the License Plate Recognition program. He asked how long it takes for a photo to be relayed back to the Police Department. Interim Police Chief Lees explained that the license plate readers are instantaneous, and he described how the system works. Mr. Kenny inquired about installing the cameras in other neighborhoods. Discussion ensued.

City Manager Blasi explained that there were mobile license plate readers in South Creek and Country Lakes. She noted that the City has offered to install and monitor the cameras for free if Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) were interested in purchasing license plate readers for their development. She explained that the license plate readers cost about \$60,000. Discussion ensued about the cameras.

David Praisler, 4121 NW 10 Street, stated he called the non-emergency after-hour number on Sunday afternoon, and it took a while to get the extension for the Police Department. He suggested that the telephone options need to be adjusted, and the extension for the Police Department should be the first choice. There was discussion regarding the phone system, and it was decided that the City would look into the phone options and place the number on Coconet. Mayor Tooley provided Mr. Praisler with the following phone numbers: 954-764-4357 and the police non-emergency 954-973-6785.

Denise Schuler, a resident of Sunrise Estates, inquired about the erosion on the edges of the lakes in Winston Park and inquired about who maintains them. Osama Elshami, Director of Utilities and Engineering, explained that all three lakes are owned by the HOA who handles their maintenance. He noted the City is always happy to meet with the HOA's to educate them on maintenance. Ms. Schuler also asked about annexing an area on the north end of the City past the Tall Trees Community.

City Manager Blasi explained that there were no plans to annex the area at this time. She noted that even though the area is an unincorporated part of Broward County, the residents

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living in that area pay school property taxes, provide reimbursement to the City for fire and EMS services, and pay a 25 percent surcharge on water and sewer if the City provides them with water.

Steve Hall, 6214 NW 45 Terrace, commented on the lack of turnout at the City Commission meetings and asked what the City is doing to increase attendance. Mayor Tooley mentioned that she posts the meetings on her Facebook page. City Manager Blasi explained that the meeting information was published and available to the public. Mr. Hall commended Police Officer Zombek and several other police officers for the excellent job that they do. He inquired about the Waste Management issue and said it appears that citizens paid for the plant through taxes. City Manager Blasi summarized the original agreements between the County and Waste Management, the building of two Waste-to-Energy Plants, and the payment of the debt services of those plants by the municipalities in accordance with the Resource Recovery Board. She explained that after the debt service was paid off Waste Management sold all of their Waste-to-Energy plants, except for the one located at Monarch Hill. She added that the City recently settled a lawsuit with Broward County to get some of the debt service money back and to set restrictions on and to monitor allowable tonnage of trash to the landfill.

Wendy Erwin noted that she had received a letter about a year ago regarding a class action lawsuit to close the landfill. City Manager Blasi explained that the class action lawsuit related to odor issues from the landfill. Ms. Erwin mentioned there were several birds on the roof of her house due to the landfill. City Manager Blasi informed her to call the Broward County number on the City's website to report the birds.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated