



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

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

**Date: April 26, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Workshop Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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 Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere
City Manager Mary C. Blasi
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Mayor Rydell opened the meeting and welcomed Broward County Vice Mayor Mark Bogen, Candice Ericks and Lauren Jackson from Eriks Consultants, Florida State Representative Kristin Jacobs, and Florida Senator Kevin Rader. Candice Ericks noted that this was the first local government presentation she attended where all levels of government were represented. She briefly mentioned that there would not be a Special Session on the compact with the Seminoles this session. She then opened the floor to Representative Jacobs.

Representative Jacobs discussed the anti-gaming constitutional amendment on the ballot that would require local governments who want to vote to increase gaming within their jurisdiction to place the matter on a statewide ballot. She noted that the School Safety Bill had passed and thanked everyone who participated in support of it. She added that the Child Marriage Bill passed with an age of 17 years old. She elaborated on the different parts of the Education Bill that passed that included language regarding union dues for teachers. She applauded the work this session by Casey Cook and the Florida League of Cities, especially with the Vacation Rentals Bill. She said it was very likely for that bill to come back again next session. She discussed various things going on at the state level, including a ruling by the higher courts reinstating felons' right to vote once they have paid their dues to society. She applauded the City of Coconut Creek for participating in the lawsuit for gun control. She commented on the new Community Development Block Grant, the CDBG-DB, which is a grant for disasters that require applicant cities to have a sea level action plan in place. She explained that most cities do not have plans and encouraged Coconut Creek to take a good look at the requirements. She commended Coconut Creek for their very progressive and well thought out applications for these types of grants, particularly having matching funds ready and available. She asked the grant committee to consider rewarding applicant cities who submit well prepared grant applications. She explained the details of the Hurricane Preparedness Committee organized by Speaker Corcoran, but reported that unfortunately, there were no

changes that resulted from the committee. She suggested looking to see who the legislators are that take a critical look at these issues and to pull together a caucus to create some better policies. She spoke about concerns she has with Department of Transportation (DOT) projects that do not take rising sea levels or ground saturation into consideration.

State Senator Rader described the partisanship of the state legislature as being 23-16 Republican in the Senate and 77-41 Republican in the House of Representatives. He stated that it has been this way for 20 years. He spoke about the Gun Safety Bill, which happened in the middle of session. He discussed a portion of the Education Bill that increased funding for charter schools to an unprecedented level and lack of oversight, resulting in an unbalanced proportion of infrastructure funding with \$150 million going to charter schools and only \$50 million going to public schools when 90 percent of students in the state attend public schools. He expressed his concern with the main part of the Opioid Bill limiting prescriptions to a three-day supply. He spoke about the Texting While Driving Bill not passing, and briefly explained the Sadowski Sweep done each year by Republicans where funds that are meant for specific purposes, such as affordable housing, are not used for the intended purpose and are swept away. He noted that the bill requiring Nursing Homes to have generators passed, and pointed out that nursing homes will not have to pay sales tax on the generators. He spoke against the sales tax exemptions, and noted that he voted against all sales tax exemptions.

Ms. Ericks commended Representative Jacobs and Senator Rader for attending the workshop and for the work they do helping the City. She briefly spoke about some of the challenges that occurred this past year, including losing the Senate appropriations chair.

Senator Rader mentioned the Daylight Saving Time Bill, and Representative Jacobs gave a brief history of the bill and explained that the State cannot change to Daylight Saving Time unless the DOT allows the change. She explained that the bill was passed, but it will go into effect only if the DOT allows the change some time in the future.

Vice Mayor Welch inquired about the Nursing Homes and the Assisted Living Facilities being on the priority list for electrical power repairs after a storm. Representative Jacobs referenced back to the hurricane committee not finalizing any bills for the session and the challenges faced when the matter was discussed. Discussion ensued. County Commissioner Mark Bogen stated that the County has been asked by Florida Power and Light to create a list of priorities to reinstall electricity after a weather disaster and asked the City to submit its list of priorities to be included on that list.

Lauren Jackson with Ericks Consultants gave a brief overview of the legislative session. She thanked the City for being actively involved in pending issues. She briefly discussed the Sober Home Bill that failed, as well as the Recycling Bill and the issue with contamination of the recycled products. She discussed the Environmental Regulation Bill that was passed but was vetoed by Governor Scott because it contained a provision allowing for reclaimed water to recharge the aquifers and that was a concern for environmentalists. She said, unfortunately, the bill also contained the C51 reservoir language that could have moved the project forward. Discussion ensued regarding the details of the C51 project. She noted that a Fracking Ban Bill gained some traction, but the momentum of the bill was lost in its final committee. She mentioned a bill that addressed the sweeping of Sadowski Trust Funds, but the funding ended up getting swept due to budget costs that were higher than originally anticipated. She spoke about the Constitution Revision Commission and the resulting eight referendum questions that will be on the November ballot. She noted that there were a lot of ethics and transparency bills this session. Mayor Rydell asked for Senator Rader, Representative Jacobs, and County Commissioner Bogen to consider having another sit down meeting like this one in the future, and they agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Transcribed by Leslie Wallace May

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated