



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

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

**Date: January 25, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Workshop Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tooley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley
Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
City Manager Mary C. Blasi
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

EXCUSED:

Commissioner Lou Sarbone

Vice Mayor Rydell moved to excuse Commissioner Sarbone from the meeting.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

City Manager Blasi welcomed all in attendance and introduced Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes, who led the discussion on the City's federal legislative priorities for 2018. Ms. Hughes introduced the City's federal lobbyists from Van Scoyoc Associates, Greg Burns and Mary Scott Hardwick, and summarized the new items added to the Legislative Agenda for 2018, including recycling, siting of wireless facilities, transparency, and international diplomacy.

Mr. Burns asked the Commission for any additional items that they would like to see added to the Legislative Agenda. Mayor Tooley requested support for grant funding to implement the Sandy Hook Promise Program in local schools. Vice Mayor Rydell requested additional information on sanctuary cities and the Attorney General's position on medical marijuana. Mr. Burns spoke about sanctuary cities and noted that the Department of Justice Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funding was being withheld while additional restrictions on the use of the funds were being challenged in court. Mr. Burns noted that recent federal legislation related to medical marijuana had included provisions that permit state laws to prevail. Commissioner Welch asked about legislation related to recycling. Ms. Hardwick explained that the President's proposed 2018 Budget eliminated all the recycling programs funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but appropriation legislation in the House and Senate direct the EPA to continue funding the programs. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Burns reviewed the following Legislative Agenda Items:

- *Landfill Regulations* – The City supports federal regulations that create stricter environmental standards and testing for municipal solid waste landfills, and subsequently, reduce landfill emissions. The City opposes efforts to weaken landfill and coal ash regulations and cuts to

EPA recycling program. The City will monitor the EPA's implementation of the coal ash provisions in the WIIN Act and Congressional and Administration action with regard to the repeal or modification of rules related to solid waste landfills.

Mr. Burns noted that rules were finalized at the end of the Obama Administration to reduce landfill gas emissions, but those rules had been stayed and new rules would be forthcoming. Discussion ensued. City Manager Blasi requested while the new rules were being developed, the City should provide comments to require the reduction of gas emissions for urban landfills.

- *Energy Exploration* – The City opposes any legislation that would relax the prohibition against leases on permits for drilling oil or gas wells within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas and prevent the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from blocking requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast. The City opposes seismic surveying within the Everglades, surrounding critical areas, or any other federal lands, and efforts to ease restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas extraction activities.

Mr. Burns noted that a new five-year plan related to offshore drilling had been adopted, which the City commented on during the plan development process. He explained that the plan originally proposed to open up every area of the continental shelf for exploration, but later excluded Florida, and commented that the decision would likely be challenged. Discussion ensued.

- *Florida DEP Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria Rulemaking* - The City opposes the Florida DEP rulemaking to set new Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria.
- *Waters of the United States and Regulatory Reform* – The City will monitor activity related to the implementation of the EPA's rule on Waters of the U.S. and activity related to regulatory reform.
- *Department of Housing and Urban Development Formula Programs* – The City supports adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant program for future fiscal years because of its critical role in the City's efforts to support those that are least fortunate.
- *Healthcare Reform* – The City will monitor efforts to repeal/replace or amend the Affordable Care Act and changes to Medicare. The City supports the repeal of the excise tax on high-cost health insurance plans (a.k.a. the Cadillac tax) within the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Burns noted that several senators were working to provide funding to help address the opioid crisis. He noted that there was growing concern that access to mental healthcare services would be significantly impacted by the repeal of the individual mandate for healthcare.

- *Mental Health Care Initiatives to Reduce Gun and Other Violence* – The City supports legislation that bans high-capacity assault weapons, restricts the sale of firearms and requires thorough background checks and licensing, and legislation that responsibly expands treatment options for the mentally ill.
- *School Vouchers* – The City opposes federal efforts to expand school voucher programs.
- *Electronic Smoking Devices* – The City supports the creation of federal regulations for e-cigarettes and other vapor producing devices.

- *Infrastructure Investment* – The City supports new federal investment in infrastructure and all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek’s infrastructure priorities.

Mr. Burns discussed proposed funding and implementation plans for infrastructure investment and noted that a final proposal had not been approved.

- *Transportation Authorization* – The City supports efforts to enhance federal transportation revenue streams; adequate funding of transportation alternatives programs, such as bicycle, pedestrian, and trails projects; adequate funding of federal public transit programs, including high-speed rail; and any and all opportunities to secure funding for City of Coconut Creek priorities via the FAST Act or other means.
- *Domestic Discretionary Spending Pressure* – The City will monitor proposed cuts to non-defense discretionary programs of importance to the City of Coconut Creek.
- *Remote Sales-Tax Legislation* – The City supports legislation that requires companies making catalog and internet sales to collect and remit the associated taxes and federal tax policies that maintain revenue streams to local governments.

Ms. Hardwick spoke about internet sales companies not being required to collect sales tax unless they had a physical presence in the state. She stated that a legislative fix to the issue was not likely, but it was being challenged in the Courts.

- *Tribal Legislation and Regulation* – The City will monitor tribal legislation and regulations that could impact the City of Coconut Creek.

Mr. Burns noted that there was no new legislation proposed that would affect tribal regulation.

- *Siting of Wireless Facilities* – The City opposes legislation that would preempt local government control and force local governments to lease publicly-owned infrastructure for the installation of “small cell” wireless towers.

Ms. Hardwick commented that Florida passed a preemption bill last legislative session and noted that the telecommunications industry was working to get a preemption bill at the federal level. She stated that there is a draft preemption bill in the Senate that goes further than what was passed in Florida.

- *International Diplomacy* – The City supports the use of diplomacy to resolve international conflicts.
- *Transparency* – The City supports efforts to increase government transparency and accessibility of public records.
- *Federal Funding of Public Safety Programs* – The City supports continued adequate funding for the wide variety of DOJ and DHS grants, i.e., Community Oriented Policing Services, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, Emergency Management Preparedness Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants, Urban Areas Security Initiative grants, and other security-specific grants, and the City of Coconut Creek’s applications for these funds.

Commissioner Welch asked if there were additional items related to public safety, and Mr. Burns noted that funding requests for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant were due on February 2. Discussion ensued regarding the federal government shutdown and the three week agreement to end the shutdown. City Manager Blasi asked about a proposed bill related to geoengineering and requested that the Legislative Agenda include an item to monitor any legislation related to geoengineering. Discussion ensued regarding emotional support and service animals. Mr. Burns spoke about upcoming elections and vacancies in the legislature. He gave an update on grant funding for Port Everglades and the expansion project.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Transcribed by Marianne Bowers

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated