



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

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

**Date: January 10, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2023-0110WS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joshua Rydell called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Joshua Rydell
Vice Mayor Sandra L. Welch
Commissioner Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Jacqueline Railey
Commissioner John A. Brodie
City Manager Karen M. Brooks
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

ALSO PRESENT:

State Senator Tina Polsky
State Representative Christine Hunschofsky
Deputy District Director Theresa Brier, Congressman Jared Moskowitz's Office
James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates
Candace Ericks, Ericks Consultants
Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants

Mayor Rydell noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present, explained that the meeting material was available online, and the meeting was being broadcast live on the City's website and YouTube channel. He thanked the legislative representatives present for their assistance in securing \$3.9 million in funding for the City during the last year. He extended an invitation to join the City at their table at the State of the Region Annual Awards dinner on February 2, 2023.

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes made brief opening remarks, explaining this was the first year the City had combined the State and Federal Legislative Workshops. She welcomed special guests, including State Senator Tina Polsky, State Representative Christine Hunschofsky, and Deputy District Director Theresa Brier from Congressman Jared Moskowitz's Office. Continuing, she introduced the City's Federal and State lobbyists, James Crum and Harry Glenn of Van Scoyoc Associates, and Candace Ericks and Lauren Jackson of Ericks Consultants. She reviewed the meeting agenda and materials, providing a brief overview of the identified priorities, noting that many of the issues had stayed the same from 2022 to 2023, including supporting Home Rule, opposing unfunded mandates, applying for funding wherever possible, and following key issues that could impact the community and residents such as the landfill, Florida's Turnpike, the compact with the Seminole Tribe, and others. She stated each of the lobbyists would be sharing funding opportunities that the City was excited to pursue in 2023, and noted there may be a need for support from the legislators.

Senator Polsky shared brief comments regarding the City's continued priorities and her view on the coming State Legislative Session. She discussed leadership and the supermajority in the State Senate,

and stated she was dedicated to doing all she could for the City. She highlighted a bill on professional licensure and shared feedback she had received from a constituent.

Representative Hunschofsky thanked the elected officials and staff in Coconut Creek for being amazing partners in the legislative process. She stated she appreciated the communication, noted her ongoing support of Home Rule, and discussed the concerns of local Condominium Associations regarding Senate Bill 4D.

Ms. Brier stated that Congressman Moskowitz had to be in Washington D.C. but wanted to thank the City for allowing her to attend on his behalf. She explained Congressman Moskowitz did not yet have committee assignments, but had been elected Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus. She discussed community projects briefly.

DISCUSSION – 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates, the City's Federal Legislative consultants, reviewed financial highlights from 2022, including advocating for the \$3.9 million, which had been included in the final Omnibus Bill, continuation of direct COVID-19 funding, and support of the Finance Department in seeking reimbursement for COVID-19-related expenses from FEMA. Continuing, Mr. Crum discussed funding opportunities identified for the first quarter of 2023, including five (5) grant programs, four (4) of which were new programs. He began to discuss proposed priorities for the City's 2023 Federal Legislative Agenda.

Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates, continued to review the proposed priorities, highlighting heavy equipment rebates, the Thin Blue Line Act, and support of the MainStreet project.

DISCUSSION – 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Candace Ericks, Ericks Consultants, the City's State Legislative consultants, provided an update on the first days of the new session in Tallahassee, noting there had been changes both in leadership and at the agency level, as well as many new House members.

Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants, briefly reviewed expected highlights of the 2023 State Legislative Session, including tax cuts, a housing affordability package, continued conversations regarding property insurance, licensing, condominium associations, and potential environmental partnerships. She noted they were watching the expansion of Form 6 related to public disclosure of financial interests to include City Commissioners, County Administrators, and City Managers, and bringing up concerns as appropriate. Continuing, Ms. Jackson discussed appropriations opportunities, including cyber security, Fire Department projects, and water projects.

Commissioner Tooley shared a recent discussion regarding the inclusion of dispatchers as first responders and noted she supported the idea due to issues of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in dispatchers. Ms. Jackson stated they had been close to the issue for a number of years and would continue to follow it.

Commissioner Brodie asked for an update on tribal affairs, including gambling and land acquisition. Mr. Glenn responded briefly, explaining they were tracking both issues and would continue to provide updates as the issues unfold.

Commissioner Railey stated Senate Bill 4D was a major problem for many of her constituents, and asserted that while safety comes first, there were buildings that would not be able to comply. She discussed the community of Wynmoor and noted there were 134 four-story buildings within Wynmoor. She stated the option to take out a line of credit would be a help. Representative Hunschofsky responded,

noting there had been discussion of loans or extensions. She highlighted the difficulty in getting engineers and the compounding impact of skyrocketing insurance costs. She stated the bill was well-intentioned but did create issues that needed to be addressed. Senator Polsky added additional comments, agreeing the issue needed to be revisited.

Vice Mayor Welch commended Ms. Hughes on her legislative efforts. She stated she had been pleased to hear discussion of recycling programs at the State and Federal level, and noted a neighborhood that might benefit from a septic to sewer improvement. She noted she would like to support the safety issue of passengers in the back of trucks being addressed. Representative Hunschofsky shared details of the infrastructure strategies committee structure in the House and noted septic to sewer as a priority.

Mayor Rydell asked for additional detail on the rebate program regarding agricultural and electric vehicles, and whether that would be at a municipal level or a resident level. Mr. Glenn stated it would be open to individuals and businesses, as well as to municipalities. Mayor Rydell stated he believed the program was a significant issue the City wanted to include in its priorities to track. City Manager Karen Brooks noted the vehicle insurance cost for electric vehicles was going up astronomically and stated this unintended consequence should be considered as a factor when considering electric vehicles.

Mayor Rydell commented on Senate Bill 4D and the potential for carve-outs and deference to local oversight. He agreed this was an issue with high impact for Coconut Creek residents. Continuing, Mayor Rydell discussed the issue of homeowners' insurance costs and stated this might be the biggest issue related to affordable housing. Representative Hunschofsky agreed and stated the consumer had not been seen in the discussion.

Mayor Rydell highlighted the importance of incentives for affordable housing which would encourage developers to step up. Ms. Ericks stated that was the biggest concern they hear and assured they were working on both sides of the aisle on the issue and would keep the City posted. Mayor Rydell brainstormed ideas to deliver letters on the matter.

Commissioner Tooley stated more needed to be done on the issue of gun laws and the ongoing occurrence of school shootings. Senator Polsky responded regarding specific incidents and challenges in the Legislature. Discussion ensued regarding a potential open carry bill and a school safety bill.

Commissioner Brodie asked about potential opportunities to help develop an accessible place for the local special needs community. Ms. Jackson commented on criteria that would make the project more likely to receive support. Representative Hunschofsky stated the idea sounded much like Independence Landing in Tallahassee and suggested reaching out to them regarding the process they followed.

Commissioner Railey stated she was happy to see the emissions standards were remaining in place and asked whether that could be used to support the case against expansion of Monarch Hill. Mr. Glenn discussed enforcement of the standards and stated a continued dialogue would help.

Vice Mayor Welch noted the issue of a zip code for Coconut Creek. Ms. Ericks responded briefly and stated the issue could be pursued.

Vice Mayor Welch asked about the possibility of grant funding to assist with mental health services for first responders and in the community and noted the issue of support for dispatchers had been discussed during the County Commission Workshop earlier in the day.

Mayor Rydell asked what the State Legislators were working on that the City and the Ericks Consulting team could be of support. Senator Polsky stated bills were still in flux, but she would like to highlight a fentanyl test strip bill that she and Representative Hunschofsky were working on. She noted everyone was dealing with overdose deaths, and it was a simple, inexpensive thing that could have an impact.

Representative Hunschofsky stated she had bills that had passed in the House unanimously in 2022 but did not make it through the Senate, and noted the importance of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and the school safety package. Senator Polsky added she was working on a bill related to loan forgiveness programs for mental health professionals as a tool to increase the pool of mental health professionals.

Mayor Rydell asked Ms. Brier what Congressman Moskowitz was working on that the City and the Van Scoyoc Associates team could be of support. Ms. Brier stated gun violence prevention was a big topic, in addition to school safety and the fentanyl issue.

Commissioner Tooley stated that once the MainStreet project was in place, the City would need support in getting a Public Safety Building. Mr. Glenn discussed potential opportunities through Homeland Security.

Commissioner Brodie commented that he was interested in pursuing a grant for a memorial to Desert Storm veterans to make Veterans Park that much more special.

Commissioner Railey asked whether limitations on automatic weapons was something that could be zeroed in on. She noted the ongoing Florida Turnpike battle had a large impact on the residents of the community and stated there were problems with emotional support animals. Mr. Glenn discussed the methodology available to bring consistency to the issue of emotional support animals.

Mayor Rydell thanked the guests for the robust, collaborative discussion. Each provided brief closing remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date