



# CITY OF COCONUT CREEK PUBLIC INPUT MEETING MINUTES Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

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

Date: April 17, 2024  
Time: 6:00 p.m.

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City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

## 1. STAFF PRESENTATION

City Manager Sheila N. Rose provided a brief introduction. She stated staff had made a presentation at the Ambassador Program on March 14 regarding the budget process and invited participation in these early steps in the budget development process. She introduced the members of the Commission briefly and noted that the meeting was being conducted live, explaining the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting.

Peta-Gay Lake, Finance and Administrative Services Director, shared a *PowerPoint* presentation, beginning with an overview of the agenda. She provided a summary of recent activity in the City, including progress on the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan with the creation of a small business education and outreach program, realtor showcase and tour, City merchandise and apparel sales, Fire Cadet program, and work toward creation of a Community Paramedic program. She noted the City received the "Autism-Friendly City" designation and added the Holiday Cultures of Winter, Love and Music Festival, and Never Forget Culture Series programs, along with improvements to Veterans Park and implementation of a glass recycling program.

Ms. Lake shared updates on anticipated grant funding, including State and Federal funds to assist with purchase of a fire engine, development of Sunshine Drive Park, and replacement of the playground at the Recreation Complex. She stated the City was recently notified of an award of more than \$900,000 to support a Coconut Creek Police Department body-worn camera program. She discussed water, street, and facility improvements, and the City's ongoing response to aging infrastructure.

Ms. Lake stated the City continued the implementation of long-range plans such as the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Transit Master Plan to further enhance transportation services to the residents. She stated the City continued to be responsive to community needs and requests as identified by residents.

Ms. Lake addressed the City's economic outlook for the recent year, noting taxable values increased by 10.35 percent. She explained increased revenue was a result of reassessments and new construction and stated properties that qualify for Save Our Homes received an increase in assessed value of three percent (3%). She discussed development projects that continued to progress, including the Strada Shopping Center, Lincoln showroom, and the Greystar/Cocomar Planned Commerce District. She stated development of MainStreet continued to be a priority, with a staff working group established to develop the scope for the public safety facility and civic space in the MainStreet area, as well as identifying and seeking grant funding for these community improvements.

Ms. Lake stated the City would continue to utilize Broward County Transportation Surtax dollars to enhance traffic signalization, roadways, intersections, pedestrian mobility options, and public transportation. She noted the South Creek improvements were rated as a top priority for Surtax funding, including traffic calming features, roadway paving and resurfacing, widening of existing bridges and sidewalks, and drainage improvements. She noted that design was slated for Fiscal Year 2025 and construction for Fiscal Year 2028, contingent upon Surtax funding. She advised additional grant funds were being aggressively sought to offset the costs of various capital projects, equipment, and City programs and services.

Ms. Lake explained the revenue sources contemplated in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget and discussed the General Fund expenditures and priorities. She reviewed property taxes and fire assessments and discounts available. She outlined where the taxes collected were allocated, including the County, Schools, and Water District.

Ms. Lake outlined the fiscal position of the City, noting it remained financially stable, with the ability to cover the increased costs of service delivery and have adequate reserves for emergencies. She recognized the Commission and Departments members and stated staff was approaching the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget strategically, assessing needs versus wants to prioritize funding.

Ms. Lake discussed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, which were long-term plans that address the City's amenities, sustainability, resiliency, and vision. She explained that the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan reflected the values and priorities of the community, while focusing on continuous improvement in the five (5) key priority areas. She stated that as staff was going through the budgeting process, they were ensuring all programs, activities, and services align with the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan and its key areas of focus. She noted work continued on a Transit Master Plan, Mobility Hub Master Plan, Climate Action Plan, Vulnerability Assessment, as well as actively pushing toward a regional solid waste system.

Ms. Lake highlighted capital improvement projects on the horizon, including Fire Station 113 in the MainStreet area and renovations of the Police Department. She stated both projects were a high priority and came with a significant investment. She explained staff was working to finalize project cost estimates while actively pursuing grant funding to help offset some of the costs of these major projects. Ms. Lake advised the long-awaited MainStreet project was also gaining momentum, to include improvements to parcels owned by the City. She noted the City was in the early stages of determining its share of these projects, but it would include a contribution for the infrastructure improvements, as well as Fire Station 113, installation of a fiber optic ring, and development of a public park and parking garage.

Ms. Lake touched on challenges faced in developing the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, including competing priorities with limited resources, navigating the current economic climate, increased costs associated with inflation, and ensuring that programs and services continue to align with the Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. She shared priorities identified during the City Commission Strategic Planning session held in March, including ensuring continuity of operations to maintain public health, welfare, and safety, to provide initiatives, services, and programs that were actively desired and utilized by the community, and commitment to ongoing investment to infrastructure. She reviewed the dates associated with the development of the budget, including Commission meetings and public hearings.

## 2. PUBLIC INPUT AND QUESTIONS

Ejola Cook, Spitfire Farm, 4201 Vinkemulder Road, Coconut Creek, expressed appreciation for everything the City and the Commission had done for the agricultural area, and asked that the items included in a presentation of ideas to protect, preserve, and enhance the Vinkemulder area be included in the budget and pointed to ongoing safety concerns.

Gregory Gayle, South Creek, Coconut Creek, asked if the audiovisual equipment in the Community Center could be improved, as people needed to bring their own equipment for meetings. He noted the population of South Creek included many older individuals, and many were not able to maintain their sidewalks. He asked the City to investigate a service to offer courtesy cleaning of sidewalks annually.

Nancy Fry, 5341 Flamingo Place, Coconut Creek, commented that students at Lyons Creek Middle School would benefit from a Parks and Recreation-sponsored before school care program.

Leni Smith, 2465 Ginger Avenue, Coconut Creek, highlighted the priority of resident safety and stated she hoped a police substation within the MainStreet area would be considered. She asked about the timing of the permanent Fire Station 113 and requested that the City consider a drive through recycling center for the residents of MainStreet.

Former Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere stated she was the president of the nonprofit Coconut Creek Multicultural Circle and commented on contributions of the organization. She asserted the nonprofit appreciated its partnership with the City and the fact that they were included in the City's Annual Financial Report. She commented that, three (3) years ago, the organization attempted to host a Fine Arts Show called "An Evening of Elegance" outside of City Hall, but it was postponed due to high winds, and a subsequent event was impacted by a major storm. She asked that the City support the continued endeavor to bring classical music and fine art to residents by providing in-kind services and space for the event.

A resident of Wynmoor asserted the City had great Police and Fire Departments, with fast response to Wynmoor. He stated there should be a fundraising program to contribute to the programs. He suggested investigation as to whether text on signs should be green on white rather than white on green.

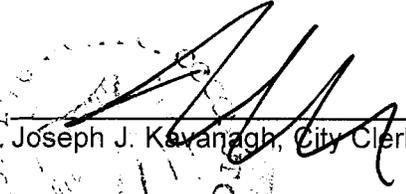
Resident Jorge Mederos spoke in support of community enhancement through Code Enforcement. He stated the City had excellent ordinances which were able to maintain the quality of life and the quality of investments of residents, but there were not enough resources for proactive enforcement. He noted communities without Homeowners Associations (HOA) were dependent on the City for enforcement of rules. He stated action needed to be taken regarding blight in South Creek. Mr. Mederos commented on the concerts in the park, and asked if it was possible to improve the lighting.

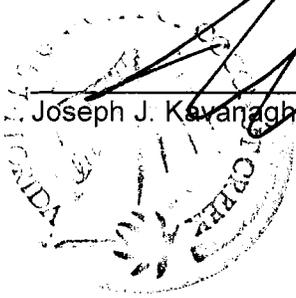
A resident asked if the City holds any fundraising events, such as a gala for the Police Department or the Fire Department, to get more businesses and community leaders involved with donations to the things that matter the most. City Manager Rose shared that, as a municipal government, the budget relies on taxes and fees, but they do appreciate and leverage corporate partnerships such as the agreement with the Seminole Tribe. She discussed alternative options for spreading funds overtime or seeking bonds rather than depending on fundraising.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further questions or comments from the public, Ms. Lake thanked the members of the public who were in attendance for their feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

  
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Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk



5/21/2024  
Date