



## CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Government Center  
4800 W. Copans Road  
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: September 17, 2018  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Workshop Meeting

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rydell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### 2. 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

### 3. PRESENTATION – PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION SURTAX

Mayor Rydell introduced Gretchen Cassini, Broward County Assistant Administrator. Ms. Cassini thanked the City Commission and City Manager for the amount of support provided by the City staff to the County. She utilized the County's "Penny for Transportation" website at: [www.broward.org/PennyForTransportation/Documents/SpeakersBureauPresentation.pdf](http://www.broward.org/PennyForTransportation/Documents/SpeakersBureauPresentation.pdf) for her presentation to the Commission regarding the proposed Surtax. She gave an overview of the proposed Surtax and transportation projects, emphasizing the priority for projects that provide traffic connectivity and congestion relief. She touched upon aging demographics, buildout, and overall transit needs. She spoke about Broward County's challenges relating to high costs for housing and the affordability gap; planning for ever-changing technology; and the decrease in funding for transportation due to more fuel efficient cars that has caused a decrease in gas tax revenue. She explained the need for the Surtax in that it would provide for a local dedicated source of revenue by raising the current sales tax of six percent to a seven percent sales tax. She shared that the County is estimating that 30 percent of the Surtax will come from non-Broward County residents.

The Surtax plan will cover:

- 476 road, traffic, signal, bridge, technology and safety improvements;
- More than 700 city-requested transportation improvements;
- Full funding for existing Community Shuttles and expanded service;
- Full funding for on-demand transportation services for people with disabling conditions;
- Designing local transit service intended to offer more reliable, responsive, accessible system; and

- Light rail along locally supported, studied, and approved corridors east-west and north-south connectivity projects are prioritized, as is the demonstrated ability to reduce congestion.

The Project highlights include:

- New technologies creating “smart signals” intended to reduce traffic congestion and wait time;
- More school safety zones;
- Resiliency and roadway drainage improvements (intended to reduce flooding);
- 73 intersections reconfigured to increase traffic flow and reduce bottlenecks across the County; and
- Expanded, connected fiber optic network to support new technologies as they become available.

Ms. Cassini summarized the Fiber Optic Network that will be addressed as part of the plan, and she spoke about the location of the Surtax Referendum Question on the November Ballot.

Commissioner Belvedere noted that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the Surtax Plan, but there is still a question of how the MPO will receive its funding. Ms. Cassini explained that there will be a side Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) with the MPO to specify the process that will be used to review and rank projects. She explained that since the MPO is federally-funded, their federally-funded staff cannot work on this project so surtax funds are going to have to purchase the resources to do the rating and ranking of surtax specific projects.

Commissioner Tooley expressed concerns that if municipalities do not have a list of projects submitted, they would lose the opportunity to fund projects. Ms. Cassini explained that this would not happen.

Commissioner Welch inquired about prioritization of projects of cities who have submitted timely project lists. Ms. Cassini explained that the first projects will be the ones that are in a “shovel-ready” status.

City Manager Blasi asked if City projects with a start date in 2019 would be able to go through the system to get evaluated and ranked by the MPO. Ms. Cassini explained that it is an open question that will be resolved only when the ILA with the MPO is completed and their staff is in place. She further explained the timeframe for reviewing and ranking projects and said it was more likely for the process to begin with 2020 projects. City Manager Blasi asked if there was an estimate on how much each city would receive for their community bus systems. Ms. Cassini introduced Richard Tornese, Broward County Public Works Department, and Jonathan Roberson from Broward County Transit. Mr. Roberson stated that the cost estimate to operate the City’s community bus system was \$650,000 per year. City Manager Blasi inquired about outreach programs to promote the Surtax ballot question, and discussion ensued.

#### **4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF CITY MANAGER**

After full discussion by each of the City Commissioners, direction and consensus was given to pay the City Manager a five percent lump sum bonus per her current employment agreement. Direction was then given to City Attorney Pyburn to prepare the following amendments to City Manager Blasi’s employment contract:

- Add a retro-active five percent raise on a base pay of \$225,826 to be effective on her anniversary date of September 12, 2018;
- Add up to a five percent annual increase in salary and/or up to a five percent annual lump sum bonus, or a combination of the two, each anniversary based on performance in Section 3.3 of agreement;
- Make the term of the contract effective for five years; and
- Define “just cause” in Section 10.2 of agreement.

Consensus was received from the Commission to proceed with all of the above-summarized changes to the City Manager’s contract.

Mayor Rydell suggested that the amended contract should not include the performance based language that is found in the City Attorney’s contract, which entitles increases that are tied to the performance evaluation.

Commissioner Sarbone requested that the numbers be verified by Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer Karen Brooks.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Transcribed by Leslie Wallace May

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Leslie Wallace May, MMC  
City Clerk

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Dated