



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

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

**Date: January 9, 2025
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Meeting No. 2025-0109WS**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sandra L. Welch called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Sandra L. Welch
Vice Mayor Jacqueline Railey
Commissioner Joshua Rydell
Commissioner John A. Brodie
Commissioner Jeffrey R. Wasserman
City Manager Sheila N. Rose
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

ALSO PRESENT:

State Senator Tina Polsky
State Representative Christine Hunschofsky
Bernadette Hughes, Government Affairs Manager
Theresa Brier, Deputy Director, Congressman Jared Moskowitz's Office
James Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates
Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates
Candice Ericks, Ericks Consulting
Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consulting

Mayor Welch asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. She noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present and introduced Government Affairs Manager Bernadette Hughes. Ms. Hughes opened the discussion by introducing the elected officials and lobbyists in attendance. She highlighted challenges and successes over the past year, focusing on key topics such as supporting home rule, opposing unfunded mandates, applying for state and federal funding and appropriations, and monitoring issues impacting the City. Ms. Hughes outlined the City's legislative strategy for the upcoming year and provided a brief overview of the evening's Workshop format. She shared funding achievements, including \$1.15 million for a redundant fiber optic loop sponsored by Congressman Moskowitz, and \$75,000 for a water project sponsored by State Senator Polsky and State Representative Hunschofsky. She noted the City's plans to pursue state appropriations funding in the 2025 Legislative Session for additional projects including the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project and water projects. She also mentioned ongoing work with Ms. Brier and the City's federal lobbyists to apply for federal appropriations in 2025. Ms. Hughes stated that the Public Works Department would submit a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant for the fleet building rehabilitation project and noted that an Assistance to Firefighters Grant had been submitted for fire rescue equipment. Ms. Hughes emphasized the importance of staff engagement with the City's state and federal lobbyists and elected officials, as well as the benefits of the strong relationships that had been built with key individuals who assist the City in navigating the legislative systems. She thanked the

City Commission for their dedication to advancing the City's interests at all levels.

DISCUSSION - PROPOSED 2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Teresa Brier, Deputy Director of Congressman Jared Moskowitz's Office, thanked the staff, elected officials, and lobbyists for their partnerships with Coconut Creek. She emphasized that Congressman Moskowitz's district fully encompassed the City, highlighting the importance of representation at City events. She discussed opportunities for community and school district engagement and ongoing efforts with the United States Postal Service to address mail issues. Ms. Brier detailed constituent assistance available through the Congressman's office for Social Security, Medicare, and Passports. She noted continued efforts in community project funding for body-worn police cameras, and anticipated funding for the fiber optic ring project. She emphasized that Congressman Moskowitz consistently supported the City's grant applications by providing letters of support, such as for the recent AFG application. She also highlighted Junior Achievement in Coconut Creek receiving a \$1.3 million Department of Labor Grant for their youth build project and invited the City Commission to participate in the upcoming grant award ceremony. She noted that the formal announcement was forthcoming. Finally, Ms. Brier mentioned ongoing efforts to unify Coconut Creek under one zip code with a new legislative bill to be introduced for this purpose. She stated that she would update the City as additional information became available.

Harry Glenn, Van Scoyoc Associates, the City's Federal Lobbyist firm, introduced Will Smith from the firm's Government Relations team and provided an update on federal developments. He explained that the 118th Congress did not complete their budget work, resulting in an extended funding resolution to keep the government open until March 14, 2025, noting that the delay affected federal funding programs, including earmarked projects such as the fiber optic project for the City of Coconut Creek. Mr. Glenn noted that all appropriations bills must be reintroduced due to the start of a new Congress. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees had named their chairpersons and subcommittee chairs, and it was expected that appropriations work would be completed before the March 14, 2025, deadline. He assured the City that Van Scoyoc Associates would continue to monitor the fiber optic project funding request closely and track any new issues from the incoming administration that might impact Coconut Creek. Mr. Glenn added that some potential issues had already been discussed with Ms. Hughes and City staff.

Jim Crum, Van Scoyoc Associates, reviewed updates to the City's Federal Legislative Agenda, highlighting its recap of 2024 accomplishments and focus points for 2025. He stated that the agenda addressed twenty-two (22) different issues organized into five (5) key areas: energy and environment, social services and economic development, infrastructure, public safety, and regulatory matters. Mr. Crum emphasized the critical issue of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Fee-to-Trust Manual, noting that connections had been established at the Deputy Secretary level in Washington, D.C., which was in charge of the policy for the Fee-to-Trust ruling that was proposed in 2023 and finalized in December 2023. Mr. Crum stated that the implementation of the final rule would be detailed in an updated version of the Fee-to-Trust Manual and Van Scoyoc Associates would continue to track the completion of the updated version. He reviewed funding priorities, including the Redundant Fiber Optic Ring Project, the Fleet Building Hardening Project, and Body Worn Cameras. Mr. Crum presented 2024 monthly reporting, grant analysis, and forecast reports, and discussed plans for developing 2025 confirmed grant funding targets and analysis. As a final step, he noted that the City had already provided comments on the federal agenda. He also acknowledged the Mayor's request to include an item regarding the monarch butterfly in the draft federal agenda, which was added to the package for final review.

DISCUSSION - PROPOSED 2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Senator Polsky spoke positively about the relationships between legislative officials and the City. She

encouraged the City Commissioners to inform her office of any new ideas for bills to be proposed. She suggested that the City push information out to residents to remind everyone that they must re-register to vote by mail. She noted that communications from her office would also include this education. Senator Polsky spoke about Home Rule and urged everyone to inform her of any problematic information observed in a bill. She noted the insurance crisis and condominium insurance laws. She stated that her office was hearing from constituents about these issues, and while there would not be any type of financial assistance for these situations, her office would continue to propose ideas to try to help with the issues. She spoke about the first substantive committee week, noting there would be five (5) between January and February and the session would begin on March 4, 2025, for nine (9) weeks. She emphasized that if the City had events that her staff needed to participate in to let her know, and that her office would also be willing to provide letters of support where needed. Discussion ensued regarding state appropriations, projects that may receive support, and reserves.

Representative Hunschofsky thanked the elected officials and staff in Coconut Creek for being wonderful partners in the legislative process. She mentioned that this day was Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and she thanked them for their service. She expressed her appreciation for the Do The Right Thing program. She presented a brief update on the My Safe Florida Homes Condominiums pilot program, noting she had worked in collaboration with Representative Lopez on getting the bill passed. Representative Hunschofsky noted that there was one community within Wynmoor that was able to get in on time for the grant, and was hopeful that there would be additional funding in the coming year. She announced that Broward Days were scheduled for March 18 and 19, 2025. She stated that it was a great time for cities to attend and see the process in action. Additionally, she mentioned Junior Achievement, which was funded this year. She urged the City Commission to inform her office about any issues where support was needed, as it was critical for everyone to be working together in one direction to help the residents of Coconut Creek.

Candace Ericks, Ericks Consultants, the City's State Lobbyist firm, thanked the City Commission, City staff, and legislators for the positive working relationships and stated that the advocacy provided on behalf of the City of Coconut Creek was incredible.

Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants, highlighted changes in the City's State Legislative Agenda for 2025. She said that many of the same issues from 2024 would be returning to the 2025 legislative process. She noted with regard to short-term rentals, something positive may come forward in the future, but not the pre-emption again. With regard to funding, she reiterated that a lot of good ideas were provided that would be followed-up on. She thanked Ms. Hughes for her assistance and noted that the forms for state appropriation requests were almost complete. Ms. Jackson stated that sovereign immunity had been moved from the watch list to the regular legislative agenda priorities. She stated that meetings would begin immediately with the coalition. She noted that language was also added to request more clarity in the law regarding public camping and sleeping to address the civil cause of action and perhaps provide a funding source to help implement the mandate. She also expanded on affordable healthcare for seniors. Senator Harrell had some ideas that she would be including, as well as language on condominium affordability and housing affordability.

Mayor Welch asked for a recommendation on the best time to attend the legislative session. Ms. Ericks said the early weeks of February would be the best times.

Commissioner Brodie thanked the legislators for attending the meeting and expressed his gratitude for their ongoing support.

Commissioner Rydell also expressed his appreciation to the legislators and lobbyists for attending the meeting and for their efforts to support the City. He was thankful for their support of the Page Volunteer Program.

Commissioner Wasserman also shared his sentiments and expressed appreciation for the legislators and lobbyists.

Mayor Welch stated her appreciation to Ms. Hughes for everything she does for the City Commission to address the needs of the City's residents.

Vice Mayor Railey thanked everyone for their attendance and for their efforts in supporting the City, as well as the Turnpike, the landfill, and water quality.

PRESENTATION

Senator Polsky and Representative Hunschofsky presented an appropriations check to the City Commission for the Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date