

CITY OF COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2024

A. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSION, CITY MANAGER AND STAFF

Mayor Keith Capizzi called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Commission Members Present:

Commissioner Skip Williams
Commissioner Karalyn Woulas
Vice-Mayor Jeremy Hutcherson
Mayor Keith Capizzi

Administrative Members Present:

City Attorney Becky Vose
City Manager Wayne Carragino
City Clerk Karin Grooms
Development Services Director Randy Stevenson
Deputy CFO JoAnn Clark
City Engineer Jared Francis
Interim Police Chief Wes Mullins
Police Major Kris Kuehn
Detective Sgt. Tom Cooper
Fire Chief Ryan Duckworth
Deputy Fire Chief Justin Grimes
Public Works Director, Robert Torres
Water Reclamation Director Brad Kalsow
Human Resources Director Cindy Depina
Deputy HR Director Jessica Hope
Leisure Services Director Laird McLean
IT Director Kevin Perez
IT Manager Ron Munn
Sr. IT Support Lauren Domenech

B. PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Capizzi introduced the Commission and the staff that attended.

Fiscal Year 2023 Recap:

City Clerk: processed 162 agenda & packets, 370 public records requests, and 40 sets of minutes.
Finance: processed 8,168 payroll checks for employees and benefits; 2,445 accounts payable checks; 365 journal entries; 125 sewer credit applications; 5,327 deposits; 248 capital fixed assets added; 14,775 parking citations issued; 8,261 parking citations paid; \$3,168,219 in parking revenue; \$646,669 in parking garage revenue; and 5,665 parking permits sold.

Recaps/Projections:

Projects in Motion:

- The Surf is in the construction phase.
- The Drift/Gateway project is in the development phase.
- Westgate Resorts at the Pier has a development agreement with the County for a proposed hotel and parking garage; they are having issues with getting emergency services to the beach.
- The Westin is in the demolition phase and close to being completed.
- New City Hall has had pouring of the pillars and elevator shafts put in. Looking to be completed and moved in approximately a year and a half from now.
- Stina/Glass Bank will be coming to Commission to see if it will get approved for development.

Development Services:

- Working with a third party to identify and register short term rentals.
- Incorporating Geographical Information Systems (GIS) into OpenGov for permitting.

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- Comprehensive Plan revisions to comply with state law.
- Updating and standardizing the beach business agreements.
- 2023 had 2,468 permits issued; 5,144 inspections done; \$681,155 in revenue collected.

Randy Stevenson, Development Services Director, explained that OpenGov allows their department to keep all the plans, permitting, and paperwork together for each project.

Commissioner Willimas stated that the GIS also shows all the utilities on those pictures which help with building process.

Fire:

- Added 6 new firefighters.
- Certification by the United States Life-Saving Association as an Open Water Advanced Lifeguard Agency.
- Obtained AHA Certification for CPR. Can now certify employees and citizens in CPR.
- Added an additional fire inspector.
- Sent an engine for the Strike Team to Mayo, FL to help with the recovery period.
- Completed county-wide training at International Palms Resort before its destruction.

Fire Chief Ryan Duckworth stated they completed CPSN review to find out what was working and what was needed to improve. Citizens Academy also had great attendance. Drown Zero donated a jet ski with rescue board to the department.

IT:

- Increased awareness about fishing attacks and cybersecurity test practices.
- Implemented training programs.
- Restructured the network to accommodate the temporary move of City Hall to the Public Works Building.
- Implemented a VPN to ensure the mobile workers are secure anywhere they work.
- Migrated ERP and phones to the Cloud.

Commissioner Williams wanted to know when a citizen will be able to call City Hall and not listen to an automated system for minutes at a time before getting a person, and then it goes to voicemail.

IT Director Kevin Perez stated this was the best course of action at that point in time, but if changes are wanted, they can be discussed.

Leisure Services:

- Aquatic Center (AC) purchased 2 new heaters/chillers to be used year-round.
- Upgrades have been made inside and outside to the AC as well as new landscaping.
- Upgraded the slide feature.
- Updated and repaired the interior of the Skate Park; hopefully will do the outside soon.
- Tennis courts rebuilt.
- Pro Shop renovation; flooring, lighting, painting.
- New irrigation.
- POS system converted to Cloud based.
- Converted 9 tee boxes to paspalum grass.
- Recreation Center had interior upgrades.
- Multipurpose courts at Berkeley Park.
- Mayor has been in talks with someone who wants to donate 2-4 pickleball courts to the City.

Police:

- Conducted county-wide narcotics investigations with local state and federal agencies.
- Added 3 telecommunication officer positions.
- Purchased a 20ft. Blazer Marine Patrol vessel.

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- Implemented large scale digital-only case management system.
- Spearheaded a county-wide police records management consortium.

Commissioner Williams wanted to clarify that the 3 telecommunications officer positions were new positions to help lessen the stress/workload for police and fire, which was confirmed by Chief Wes Mullins.

Public Works:

- Roadway paving and replacement projects on N. Brevard Ave. from 4th St. North to Minuteman Causeway.
- S. Brevard Ave. sidewalk replacement.
- A1A pedestrian crossing.
- Little league baseball field renovations.
- Golf course driving range lamp poles.
- Tennis court lights on Ramp Road.
- 0-99 channel marker replacement project.
- Palm Lane and 13th St. South beach access.
- Purchased fleet management software.

Public Works Director Bob Torres said that they were in works with consultants to design to 2 ADA compliant beach crossovers at Fisher Pack and Osceola Lane.

Stormwater and Environmental:

- Bahama Blvd. seawall replacement.
- Completed the City's first living shoreline project with oysters and native plants at McNabb.
- Pool pavilion kayak docks.
- Conceptual designs for stormwater improvement projects.
- Ramp Road Park stormwater and parking improvements.
- Cedar, Woodland, Brevard, 1st & 2nd St. North flooding evaluation.
- Purchased a small-scale street sweeper for areas the larger sweeper can't access.

Water Reclamation:

- Started lining sewer pipes throughout the City with the Florida Commerce Mitigation Grant.
- 52,000 linear feet of gravity sewer pipe that has been rehabilitated.
- Completed Golf Course outfall modification project.
- Completed Lift Station 17 generator installation with FEMA grant funds.
- Replaced 3 turbo blowers for the Wastewater treatment process.
- Designed biosolids project to implement in 2024.

Looking Ahead to 2024:

- City Hall construction is underway.
- More paving of City streets.
- More environmental programs to protect the lagoon.
- Advancement of the community paramedic program.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Janice Scott: thanked the Commission for taking such an interest in the budget this year. Wanted to let the Commission know that the meeting at the library on March 23rd has been cancelled.

Mike Johnson: pedestrian crossing by Surf Drive. It's been a great addition, but people still don't know about it. Vegetation has grown around intersections around the City, i.e. Surf Dr., Publix Banana Square. Hard to see around vegetation while driving. Mr. Johnson was impressed with how Cocoa Beach handled the person who defrauded the seniors. Orange County let him go, and Mr. Johnson hopes the City will hold Orange County accountable.

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Commissioner Williams agrees that the vegetation shouldn't get out of hand as it blocks vision to not only vehicular traffic, but bicycle/e-bike traffic as well.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Karin Grooms, MPA, CMC
City Clerk