

MINUTES
CITY OF COCOA
DISTRICT 4 TOWN HALL MEETING

October 15, 2019

The District 4 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at the Florida Solar Energy Center, 1679 Clearlake Rd., Cocoa, Florida, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

Councilmember Koss called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm. She led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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| Present: | Jake Williams, Jr. | Mayor |
| | Alex Goins | Councilmember (arrived 6:26pm) |
| | Lorraine Koss | Councilmember |
| | John Titkanich, Jr. | City Manager |
| | Matt Fuhrer | Assistant City Manager |
| | Monica Arsenault | Assistant City Clerk |
| Absent: | Brenda Warner | Deputy Mayor |
| | Don Boisvert | Councilmember |

Other staff members present:

Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Mike Cantaloupe, Police Chief; and Chris Hattaway, Patrol Officer.

II. Meeting Topics

1. Welcome/Introductions

Councilmember Koss welcomed everyone to the District 4 Town Hall meeting¹. She introduced the other members of Council as well as Colleen Kettles from the Florida Solar Energy Center. Ms. Kettles briefly shared information about the center.

¹ Exhibit A: District 4 Town Hall Presentation

It was pointed out that the Brevard County Sustainability Group will be partnering and co-hosting an event on November 8, 2019 with the Florida Solar Energy Center to discuss the importance of solar energy.

Councilmember Koss provided information about the upcoming Citizen's Academy which will take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. She added that there are only two vacancies left and encouraged those who were interested to apply.

Furthermore, she discussed the importance of education and Cocoa's schools. She introduced Christi Pemberton, the Principal of Cambridge Elementary. Councilmember Koss pointed out their progress as a school and noted that there has been an increase in science testing from a forty-eight percent success rate to a seventy percent success rate.

Councilmember Koss read a poem to the assembly titled "Trees".

She talked about the invitation Cocoa High School received to perform at Carnegie Hall. She mentioned that her and her husband flew to New York to see the performance in person and it received a standing ovation.

Councilmember Koss recognized Paulie Riggs for an award he received for a painting he had done. She acknowledged his talent and briefly discussed the ArtBeatz program. She also mentioned a recently completed project, the Solar Flower, which was installed on Blake Avenue. It is approximately twenty feet when fully expanded and it follows the sun to generate energy before closing up at night.

Councilmember Koss pointed out the focus points of 2020 which are being prepared for a storm, single-use plastics and Vision Zero, a campaign to end pedestrian fatalities.

Matt Fuhrer, Assistant City Manager, shared a presentation² regarding the stormwater program. He shared an overview of the responsibilities that the Stormwater Division has. He briefly discussed the ten year Capital Plan along with the implementation plan.

Assistant City Manager Fuhrer reviewed the Stormwater Tiered Rate Structure and pointed out several city-wide and District 4 flood mitigation projects.

Mayor Williams inquired about the flooding on Indian River Drive that took place after the recent rain storm. In response, Assistant City Manager Fuhrer shared that it was caused by a palm frond that was stuck in the drain.

A citizen inquired about standing water at the construction site of the train station. In response, Assistant City Manager Fuhrer added that stormwater retention areas will be dug but for now it is an active construction zone so standing water can be expected to be seen.

² Exhibit B: Stormwater Program Presentation

City Manager Titkanich introduced all of the staff members present.

He shared several updates on various happenings taking place in the City. He explained the Urban Landscape Plan to landscape US1, which the Cocoa CRA, US1 CRA and the City partnered on to plant plants. Additionally, in March 2019 the Pedestrian Connector opened on the north side of 520. The Lee Wenner Park shoreline was also re-done with new lighting. The City will be partnering with Brevard Zoo to imbed oysters as well.

City Manager Titkanich added that the T-docks and day slips are being re-done to be more resilient with a substantial completion date to be set in April, 2020. The final design for the promenade is going out on October 29, 2019 and will go before Council in December.

The Cocoa CRA is also considering a new Civic Center although a location is yet to be decided.

St. Mark's is looking at re-routing traffic and potentially moving Church St. over and adding greenspace as well as another building.

City Manager Titkanich briefly mentioned the hotel in the village as well as the striping and paving downtown.

The Cocoa YMCA was discussed and it was shared that there are around four thousand nine hundred members, ten to fifteen percent of those being Cocoa residents. Eastern Florida State College has offered to come up with three hundred twenty-four thousand dollars and are looking to the City and/or the school district to match this amount.

City Manager Titkanich talked about the new train station and noted that it will travel to Orlando and West Palm Beach. It will run on the south side of SR 528 and over I-95. It will take anywhere from three to five years before residents to see activity here in Cocoa.

A citizen inquired if a parking garage is still being considered where the old Suntrust Bank was. In response, City Manager Titkanich explained that FDOT would not allow one at that location due to the amount of traffic that would back up.

Chief Cantaloupe reminded everyone to make sure they lock the doors to their homes and cars at all times.

City Manager Titkanich mentioned the upcoming Utilities Workshop at City Hall on Tuesday, November 5th.

A citizen inquired about the old Winn Dixie site. In response, City Manager Titkanich shared that a developer is interested in potentially developing both residential and commercial property there.

Councilmember Goins pointed out the upcoming Marijuana Workshop at City Hall on October 29th at 6 pm.

Councilmember Koss thanked everyone for attending the Town Hall meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

*** The Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.**

Jake Williams, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie Shealy, City Clerk
(Transcribed by Monica Arsenault, Assistant City Clerk)