

MINUTES
City of Cocoa
District 2 Town Hall Meeting

April 20, 2021

A District 2 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at Endeavor Elementary School, 905 Pineda St., in Cocoa, Florida 32922, as publicly noticed.

- I. Councilmember Hearn called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Mayor Blake provided the invocation and Councilmember Hearn led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	James Goins	Deputy Mayor
	Rip Dyal	Councilmember
	Lavander Hearn	Councilmember
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk

ABSENT:	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
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OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; and Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager.

- II. Welcome by Councilmember Hearn
- III. Introductions of Council & Staff by Councilmember Hearn
- IV. District 2 Improvements/Projects:

Councilmember Hearn gave a quick overview of the agenda for the evening. He invited Bryant Smith, Public Works Director, to give an update¹ on ongoing projects in the City.

¹ Exhibit A: District 2 Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Mr. Smith shared information about driver feedback (radar) signs and noted that they were recently installed on Pineda St. as part of the Pineda Street Reconstruction project. He added that they are a solar-powered low impact traffic calming solution and provide personalized feedback to each driver.

Park improvements within the City were discussed and Mr. Smith pointed out that Carl E. Anderson Park will be receiving new fencing and a playground replacement.

Lastly, Mr. Smith provided an update on the Fiske and Broadmoor Acres Stormwater project. He explained that the City is awaiting formal approval from FEMA, however this will help to address stormwater issues with a combination of front yard swales and new piping. This is a \$3.1 million-dollar project with a possible seventy-five percent reimbursement upon completion. The construction timeframe is around two hundred and twenty days.

Ms. Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager, shared information on the Upstart Cocoa Small Business Program which is a program for minority or women owned businesses. She pointed out that this is a forgivable loan program and there are currently enough funds for two applicants. The program will be hand tailored to the selected applicants and the loan will be for ten thousand dollars. In order for the loan to be forgiven there are a few criteria that need to be met such as the applicant will need to complete a community enrichment requirement and also stay in business for at least three years.

Ms. Essing also announced information regarding the American Rescue Plan. She noted that with the closing of Harvey's and Save-A-Lot, the City jumped into action to try and incentivize them to stay. Although Harvey's ultimately decided to close, the City is actively working to rescue Save-A-Lot.

A citizen asked if the City was aware of anything going into Harvey's, as she heard a rumor that Food Lion was considering the location. In response, Ms. Essing stated that she was not aware of anything at this time but would look into it.

Ms. Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director, announced that the City's new online permitting option was up and running and provided further details.

Deputy Mayor Goins asked if the City was still conducting virtual inspections. In response, Ms. Bunt explained that some inspections can be conducted virtually but some inspections must be done in person.

City Manager Whitten provided and explained the timeline for the police chief recruitment process. He mentioned the qualities staff was seeking in a new chief. He also shared that the new chief will live in the City.

Additionally, he elaborated on the process of the Selection Committee and pointed out various meetings held by the City which allowed for citizen input as well. City Manager Whitten provided a detailed background of the newly selected Police Chief, Evander Collier. He added that he will be starting with the City next week.

Redistricting was discussed and City Manager Whitten mentioned the Districting Commission which consists of five members appointed by each Councilmember and the Mayor. He shared a map of the current districts and explained why the redistricting takes place.

Mr. Smith talked about speed humps and pointed out that the City has a policy with specific requirements that will be available on the website soon.

A citizen mentioned an issue she is having at her house over by Mitchell Street and Pineda Street. She explained that people are not stopping at the stop sign and it is dangerous. In response, Mr. Smith noted that he would get with her to try and resolve the issue.

Ms. Bernice Cox, 701 Aurora St., asked about the requirements to have a stop sign or speed bump installed.

Jessie Smiley, 1101 Park Dr., shared that he is having an issue on Carolina Ave. with speeders. He asked for more police presence as well as "children at play" signs. Additionally, he inquired how he can get reclaimed water.

Ms. Tabitha Moore, 1102 Bellefonte Ave., added that she has issues with people speeding as well and is scared someone will crash into her house where her two children sleep.

Councilmember Hearn announced that the City is in talks of having sidewalks installed in the area so children won't have to play in the street.

In closing, he thanked everyone for coming and encouraged more community engagement. He thanked Endeavor's staff as well as City staff for helping to put together the Town Hall meeting.

. **The District 2 Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie E. Shealy, MMC, City Clerk
(Transcribed by M. Arsenault, Asst. City Clerk)