

MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Regular Meeting of The City Council
January 28, 2025

A Regular City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in Cocoa City Hall, in City Council Chambers, located at 65 Stone Street, in Cocoa, Florida, 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Opening Matters:

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Weeks provided the invocation, and Councilmember Koss led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk took the roll.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	Lavander Hearn	Deputy Mayor
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Patricia Weeks	Councilmember
	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	City Clerk

ABSENT:

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Abby Morgan, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Samantha Senger, Communications and Economic Development Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Anthony Marchica, Police Commander; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Robert Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Megan Crutcher, Help Desk Support Tech; and Breanna Earley, Assistant City Clerk.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. Agenda: Regular Meeting of January 28, 2025. (2024-274).

- * **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Goins to approve the agenda for the Regular City Council meeting of January 28, 2025 as written.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. Minutes: (a) Regular Meeting of November 12, 2024. (2024-275).

- * **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Koss to approve the minutes for the Regular City Council meeting of November 12, 2024 with an amendment to correct the vote on the motion that was held on Public Hearing item VI.7.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

3. Minutes: (b) Swearing-In Ceremony of November 20, 2024. (2025-64).

- * **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Koss to approve the minutes for the Swearing-In Ceremony of November 20, 2024 as written.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

1. Informational Annual Investment Report for FY2024. (2025-34). (Finance Director)

Ms. Bowman introduced John Grady, Managing Director for Public Trust Advisors, who provided an economic update and a portfolio strategy review for 2024.

IV. Delegations:

Janyia Smith, N. Fiske Blvd., Cocoa, asked for a crosswalk closer to the park on Fiske Boulevard so the children don't have to walk a block down the street in order to cross the street. She would like to see the crosswalk near Park Drive and N. Fiske Boulevard.

Ted Fore, 1700 Freda Trail, Cocoa, asked for an update on the water station and a temporary water meter on the hydrant out by his property.

V. Consent Agenda:

1. To Approve Task Order 2025-50, City of Cocoa America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Section 2013 Compliance Support Update, with Jacobs Engineering Group (Jacobs) to Provide Assistance to the City of Cocoa to meet the AWIA Requirements including Project Initiation, Risk and Resiliency Assessment, and Emergency Response Plan Update. (2025-8). (Utilities Director)
2. Budgetary Correction for Bank of America Lease Financing. (2025-35). (Finance Director)
3. To provide approval for the City to apply for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Cycle 2025-2026, for salaries, benefits and operating costs for the Victim's Advocate Program, in order to provide victim advocate services to crime victims. (2025-43). (Police Chief)
4. To provide approval for the City to apply for the Hometown Heroes Grant Giveaway, for K9 equipment and training. (2025-57). (Police Chief)
5. Approve a Resolution Amending the FY 2025 Budget, BAF 25-007-A, to provide budget for Emergency Disaster related costs for repairs and wages. (2025-58). (Finance Director)
6. Announcement of Mayor Blake, Councilmember Hearn and Councilmember Goins to Attend the Florida Black Caucus Conference from February 27 - February 28, 2025. (2025-67). (Administrative Services Director)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Councilmember Koss to approve the Consent agenda.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VI. Public Hearings:

VII. Council Business:

1. Consider the Reappointment of Brenda Fox to Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency through January 2026. (2025-13). (Administrative Services Director)

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Councilmember Hearn to approve the reappointment of Brenda Fox through January 2026.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. Consider the Donation Application for the Brevard Schools Foundation's Jump Start Program in the amount of \$1,000. (2025-63). (Administrative Services Director)

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Hearn; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Weeks to approve the donation application.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

3. Approval from City Council on the Legislative Priorities listing. (2025-76). (City Manager)

City Manager Whitten shared that not much has changed since last year and there are a total of eleven priorities on the list for Council to approve for this year.

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Hearn; Seconded by Mayor Blake to approve the Legislative Priorities Listing for 2025.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VIII. City Business:

1. To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY2025 Budget, BAF# 25-029-A to Accept Grant Funding for the Pineda Causeway Phase 2 Water Main Design; Federal \$1,200,000 and State \$135,000. (2024-276). (Utilities Director)

- * **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Weeks to approve the item, for discussion.**

Mr. Walsh explained that this project came about during one of the hurricanes in 2018. Discussion was held back then to install a third water line. This is the final continuation of the pipe project that has been going on for the last few years.

Both grants will fund the Pineda Causeway Phase 2 Water Main Design Project, which consists of the design and permitting of a 5-mile long, 16-inch water main extension along Pineda Causeway and State Road A1A, completing a loop around the southeastern end of the water service territory.

Both grants were awarded for a total grant amount of \$1,335,000. On 9/25/24, the Defense agreement was fully executed. On 10/29/24, the Commerce agreement was fully executed.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

IX. Informational Agenda:

1. Approved change orders to construction contracts that the City Council has authorized the City Manager, by resolution, to approve in excess of the City Manager's spending authority. (2025-59). (Finance Director)
2. Data showing the relation between the estimated and actual income and expenses to date. (2025-60). (Finance Director)
3. December 2024 (FY25) Budget Adjustment Report. (2025-61). (Finance Director)
4. Bi-weekly Report from January 10 – 23, 2025. (2025-65). (City Manager)
5. Informational Only – The City of Cocoa's Open Board Vacancies. (2025-66). (Administrative Services Director)

X. Reports:

Chief Lamm reminded Council of the Space Coast Fire Chief's Award Ceremony taking place on Friday, January 31st at the Cocoa Civic Center. They will be honoring both Deputy Chief Dara Hennessey and Chief Jonathan Lamm at the ceremony for Chief and Deputy Chief of the Year.

City Attorney Eick shared an update on the Allegra at Cocoa project and the City now owns that property.

Deputy Mayor Weeks shared photos from events she recently attended, including the League of Cities dinner, the Economic Update event and her first ride on the Brightline train.

Councilmember Goins asked for a few updates to be brought back to Council sometime in the near future. The first is about the special needs equipment that was supposed to be installed at some of the city parks. This was discussed during the budget workshops last year.

He also talked about House Bill 1365, and he shared that he has concerns regarding whether the City is in compliance and how we are going to address it. In response, City Manager Whitten elaborated on the issue and explained that the City cannot move forward with any plan without presenting it and having it approved by the Brevard County Commissioners first.

For the time being, Matthew's Hope is working with the Brevard Homeless Coalition to assist with temporary mobile shelters. City Manager Whitten stated that we will have to wait and see how it works out.

Additionally, the Police Department is conducting two walk-throughs per day in Cocoa Village to move the homeless along if they are camping or sleeping. They are issued a warning first and if they do not comply, they are trespassed and then an arrest will follow if they are caught again.

Councilmember Goins asked if the Police Department could add Provost Park to their daily list of areas to walk-through because there has been a camp there for a while and people are hanging their clothes along the fence.

Councilmember Goins thanked Public Works for clearing up some brush that needed to be cut and also for cleaning up the mess that happened at Hilltop Ceremony.

He shared some photos from events he recently attended, including his son's track meet where a new rubber track was installed at Cocoa High School. He, along with the City Manager and Councilmember Koss, attended the ribbon cutting for Cirrus apartments as well. Lastly, he shared that he attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March and it was a great event.

Councilmember Hearn thanked staff for their quick response in addressing issues as they arise and thinks they are doing a great job.

Councilmember Koss provided an update on District 4, including photos from the new Cirrus apartments. She also shared that she attended a meeting regarding the Quail Ridge apartment development.

She talked about the OSTDS Remediation Plan and septic systems in Cocoa. She provided a map of Cocoa and highlighted specific areas, specifically where the septic sewer gravity mains are as well as estimated septic growth.

Mayor Blake shared several photos from events he recently attended, including the 25th Anniversary for Oleander Point, the MLK Peach March, a birthday party, an event that was held by his church, and a conference he attended in St. Augustine.

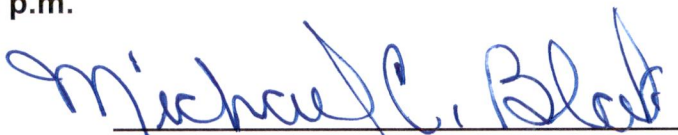
XI. Adjournment:

- * **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Hearn to adjourn the Regular meeting of January 28, 2025.**

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Hearn, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Monica Arsenault, CMC, City Clerk

