

MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Regular Meeting of The City Council
March 10, 2026

A Regular City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 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.

Didi Sims provided the invocation, and Ms. Gibson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk took the roll.

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

ABSENT:

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Abigail Morgan, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Evander Collier, Police Chief; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Lorne Stinnett, HR Director; Savi Pooran, HR Manager; Mitch Lawyer, Interim Chief Technology Officer; Samantha Senger, Communications & Economic Development Director; and David Grissom, Helpdesk Support Tech.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. Agenda: Agenda: Regular Meeting of March 10, 2026. (2026-96).

* **MOTION by Councilmember Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Koss to approve the agenda as written.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

IV. Delegations:

Mr. George Brown, 555 W. King St., Cocoa, explained that he would like to inquire about the zoning of his property. He has been waiting for over a year to get an answer, and he would like to know what he can do with his property so he can sell it before he passes away. He brought a gentleman with him, Dylan Hansen, who reiterated that Mr. Brown has been waiting for over a year, and they are asking for something in writing so they know what they can do with the property. They have and have had interested parties who would like to buy it but they aren't sure what they can do with it because of the zoning.

In response, City Manager Whitten explained that Mr. Brown has been experiencing these issues with his property for many years, even before he became City Manager. He explained that the property's future land use and zoning are inconsistent with each other. The realtor representing him last year was made aware of the issue. Additionally, Mr. Brown has received letters from the City explaining this.

City Manager Whitten explained the process, and it starts with the Planning & Zoning Board. It could involve Comprehensive Plan Amendments or Future Land Use amendments done by Ordinance with two Public Hearings presented to the City Council.

Councilmember Weeks asked what the quickest way to resolve this is. In response, City Manager Whitten stated that there is no quick way and although he empathizes with Mr. Brown, the proper process has to be followed.

Paul Kamus, 116 Olive St., Cocoa, shared that he attended a conference recently and spoke about the proposal to remove property tax. He spoke about the importance of property tax and its benefits.

Anita Gibson, 451 Stone St., Cocoa, would like to make sure that the new Diamond Square subdivision won't affect their schools and parks negatively because of any kind of bottlenecking.

Brad Whitmore, 351 Rockledge Dr., Rockledge, spoke about an idea he has for a temporary dinghy landing at Cocoa Riverfront Park. He presented a packet of pictures to Council with his idea. He shared that he feels we are losing business by not having a temporary dinghy landing and this would be an improvement that we could put out to our cruisers. This would be temporary until the City's day docks are up.

Deputy Mayor Goins suggested that this be presented to the Cocoa CRA. In response, Mr. Whitmore replied that he would be happy to present his idea to the Cocoa CRA.

V. Consent Agenda:

1. Approve a Resolution to adopt the 2025 Brevard County Local Mitigation Strategy Plan. (2026-98). (Fire Chief)
2. Announcement of Travel for Mayor Blake and City Manager Stockton Whitten to Washington D.C. from March 3rd - March 4th, 2026. (2026-99). (City Clerk)
3. Approval of the SBS Sports, LLC Half Marathon Road Closure Request. (2026-101). (Comm. & Economic Development Director)
4. Approve Change Order No. 1 to Myra Planning and Design in the amount of \$7,909.50 and adopt Contingency Resolution 2026-### authorizing the City Manager to execute future project-related amendments up to an additional \$22,000 with a maximum project cost of \$117,497.00. (2026-104). (Public Works)
5. Approve Task Order 2026-18 with Atlantic Development Inc. in the amount of \$309,215.00 for the Catalina Isle Drive water main relocation; Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve project contingencies and change orders in an amount not to exceed \$30,921.50 for Project WS25CD; and Approve Budget Amendment BAF #26-049 in the amount of \$374,679. (2026-105). (Utilities Director)
6. To provide approval for the Cocoa Fire Department to apply for the Brevard County EMS Trust Grant. (2026-106). (Fire Chief)
7. Approve Resolution 2026-016, Extending a State of Emergency due to a technological incident affecting the City of Cocoa's critical technological infrastructure. (2026-159). (City Manager)

8. Revised FY26 Pay Plan. (2026-160). (Human Resources)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Hearn to approve the Consent agenda.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VI. Public Hearings:

VII. Council Business:

1. Council direction on the installation of an LED message board at the Southwest corner of Fiske Blvd. and Dixon Blvd. and the funding source for the project. (Helow Park). (2025-1208). (Councilmember Hearn)

Ms. Senger explained that the City currently has four LED message boards strategically located throughout the City at the following locations:

- Cocoa Police Department (SR520)
- Cocoa Water Tower (US1)
- Fire Station 3 (SR524)
- Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center (Diamond Square)

The message boards are exclusively used by the City for public service announcements to communicate in a timely way with the public. City staff sought out quotes to install a new LED message board and sign at the corner of Dixon and Fiske Boulevards. This is the site for a city passive park known as Helow park. The two quotes received for this sign and LED board installation were:

- Quote 1: \$49,017.33 for a single-sided sign
- Quote 2: \$60,370.00 for 2 single-sided signs or \$42,719.00 for 1 double-sided sign

This corner is a bit tricky for a message board because of the more diamond shape to the intersection. The two single-sided signs would work best for this intersection so the LED Boards would be visible from each direction. One double-sided sign would make viewing the sign from two of the four directions harder.

Also, there is currently no electric in this park so staff is getting with FPL and an electrical contractor to get electric placed in the park. This process may take some time before we are able to install the boards in this area.

Councilmember Hearn asked about funding. He asked if there was any money left over from the Juny Rios splash pad. In response, Ms. Bowman noted that she doesn't know the exact number but it is around \$600,000.

Councilmember Koss asked if there is a better location with access to electricity. She'd like to see it go in a heavily trafficked area so a lot of people can see it. She explained that she thinks the LED message boards are great and is in support of the idea, as long as it is not at the expense of something else.

Deputy Mayor Goins would also like to see it installed in a place that has a good amount of walkability. The messages change so quickly on the screen that it might be a good idea to consider the walkability of the area before installing a sign. At a slower pace, people are more likely to read it.

Councilmember Weeks shared that traffic has been slowed since the Clearlake Road project. She suggested the Clearlake and Fiske Blvd. area.

Ms. Senger pointed out that Council should remember that the sign can only be installed on City property. The City does not own property in that area.

Councilmember Hearn shared why he chose the location of Dixon and Fiske Blvd. He is trying to provide an avenue to the people in that area to receive information. He shared that his Town Hall meetings haven't been heavily attended in the past, and he feels something like this would help to share important information and events.

He understands that Council does not want to spend the money from Juny Rios Park but he hopes they will support him on this.

Councilmember Koss would like to suggest that staff bring information back that includes traffic counts to help them determine the best location to put the sign. She also wants to make sure that the sign will serve the community in the best way possible.

Councilmember Hearn added that he appreciates Councilmember Koss's comments, but respectfully he feels that a traffic study would create unnecessary costs and he has already done his due diligence.

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Hearn; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Goins to move forward with two single sided signs in this location, funded by the leftover funds from the Juny Rios Splash Pad project, for discussion.**

Councilmember Weeks would like to keep the money for her District. She would like staff to find the funds elsewhere. She has no issues with the sign itself, but will not vote in favor of it if the funding comes from her District.

Councilmember Koss added that she was not suggesting a traffic study, just that all avenues be considered. She is also in favor of the sign, but does not agree with where the funding is coming from.

- * **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Weeks to table the item until a later date to allow staff time to bring back more information, for discussion.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Koss

NAYES: Goins, Hearn

THE MOTION CARRIED (3-2)

Deputy Mayor Goins stated that he is okay with tabling the item, but does not want to ask staff to figure out where the funding should come from. He feels that it is the responsibility of the Council to determine that.

Councilmember Hearn reiterated that he understands that they don't want to pull money from the Juny Rios splash pad project, but wanted to remind everyone of who put that money there in the first place, which is the Council that sat previously. This would be a great way to spend a small fraction of that money and with hurricane season quickly approaching, he would like to have a sign installed to help spread important information.

2. Council direction on the selection of community leaders to feature on the Provost Park Fitness Court Mural. (2026-67). (Comm. & Economic Development Director)

Ms. Senger shared that at the January 13, 2026 City Council meeting, City Council selected 12 individuals to include on a public survey for community input. The names were given as potential individuals to include on a mural at the new Fitness Court that will be installed at Provost Park. The following names were selected to be included on the survey:

District 1

Ed Jones
Norman 'Big Shug' Davis
Nathaniel Hooks

District 2
Dr. Willie Oliver Wells, Sr.
James Rowe, Jr.
Mary Dorn

District 3
Mildred Williams

District 4
Frank Sullivan

Mayor
Jessie Ruth Monroe
Reche Sims
Rosemary McGill

These names were set-up on a survey and sent out to the community for input. The survey was promoted on social media, in the electronic newsletter, and promoted at various community meetings.

City staff is seeking Council direction on which individuals to include on the mural. Staff recommendation is to select six (6) of the twelve (12) individuals to include on the mural which will allow space for some background information on each person. Staff needs to then take the names selected and work with the design staff from the National Fitness Court to come up with a mural concept which will then be brought back to Council for feedback prior to final design.

Ms. Senger pointed out that there was a tie which is why the top seven are being presented instead of the initial six that was discussed.

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Goins; Seconded by Mayor Blake to approve the top seven individuals that were selected as a result of the survey. The individuals are:**

-Dr. WO Wells, Sr.
-Ed Jones
-Nathaniel Hooks
-Rosemary McGill
-Reche Sims
-Jessica Ruth Monroe
-James Rowe, Jr.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VIII. City Business:

IX. Informational Agenda:

X. Reports:

Chief Collier shared that the Chief's Breakfast is coming up and encouraged all to buy tickets and/or donate if they can.

City Manager Whitten spoke about his trip to Washington D.C. with the Mayor to talk about Brightline. They met with the Federal Railroad Administrator, Senator Moody, Senator Scott and Congressman Haridopolos. The City has received letters of support and he feels this was a successful trip. The pot is five billion dollars and if dollars come to Florida, he is hopeful that Cocoa will get their share to fund the station.

Councilmember Hearn shared photos from events he recently attended including a Cocoa High Basketball tournament, a conference, and an event at Endeavor Elementary.

Councilmember Koss noted that she does not have a report, however she shared that she is working on her budget priorities for the budget meeting.

Councilmember Weeks added that she does not have a report either, however she wished to remind everyone of her Town Hall meeting on March 18, 2026 beginning at 6pm at the Lost Lakes Clubhouse.

Councilmember Goins shared that April 11th is Trash Bash. He does not want to see Rockledge win this year. He will also be providing donuts and coffee for the volunteers. For anyone who is interested, he will be at Provost Park at 8am on April 11th.

Additionally, Ms. Senger provided the email address for NeoDasha Harris at Leisure Services for anyone who wants to get signed up as a volunteer.

Deputy Mayor Goins also wished to share that he will be bringing an item to an upcoming meeting to consider naming some of the nameless fields at Provost Park after some of Cocoa's historical figures.

Mayor Blake shared some photos from events he recently attended, including the Black History Month event at Emma Jewel Charter Academy where he was

recognized. Additionally, he shared pictures from his trip to Washington D.C. with the City Manager.

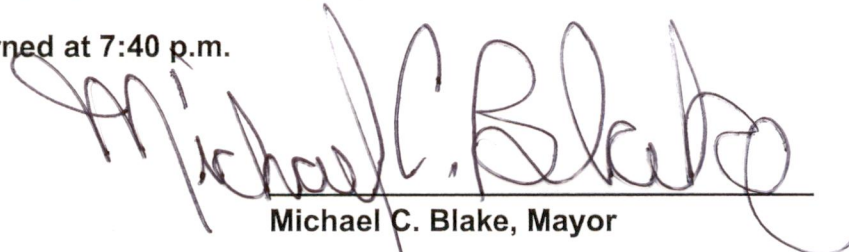
XI. Adjournment:

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Weeks; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Goins to adjourn the Regular meeting of March 10, 2026.**

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

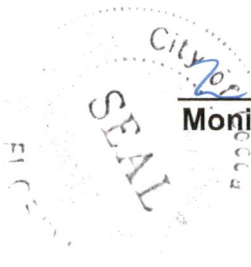
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:



Monica Arsenault, CMC, City Clerk

