

MINUTES

CITY OF COCOA DISTRICT 2 HALL MEETING

August 15, 2017

A District 2 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at the Lost Lakes Clubhouse, 140 Lost Lakes Drive, Cocoa, Florida, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

City Manager Titkanich called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Present:	Henry U. Parrish III	Mayor (arrived 6:11 pm)
	Don Boisvert	Deputy Mayor
	Brenda Warner	Councilwoman (arrived 6:11 pm)
	Jeri Blanco	Councilwoman (arrived 6:11 pm)
	Clarence Whipple, Jr.	Councilman
	John Titkanich, Jr.	City Manager
	Matt Fuhrer	Assistant City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk

Deputy Mayor Boisvert introduced members of Council. City Manager Titkanich introduced staff members present:

Ed Wegerif, Public Works Director; Gene Prince, Fire Chief; Michael Cantaloupe, Chief of Police; Teri Butler, Finance Director; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Karen Hamilton, Community Services Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Trevius Folston, Helpdesk Support Technician; and Samantha Senger, PR Specialist.

II. Discussion Topics

1. Department Updates

City Manager Titkanich presented a snapshot¹ from the Budget Workshop that took place on August 9, 2017 to help explain the FY18 budget to the community. He discussed an additional homestead exemption that will be going on the ballot. He stated that while it would be foolish not to support it, the extra exemption will come at a cost. He went on to explain that the year 2020 will be an important year for the City as many of the big projects will be completed by that time and will

¹ Exhibit A: District 3 Town Hall Meeting, Budget Presentation

enhance the tax base. He elaborated on the increase in insurance costs to the City and mentioned that the City opened an Employee Health Care Center to help limit the amount of claims in order to avoid higher insurance costs that the City would have to endure.

City Manager Titkanich went on to explain the Public Service Tax on water. He explained that Council has voted to maintain the current millage rate and has opted for the Public Service Tax to be established so as to broaden the tax base and diversify costs. Furthermore, he explained that all Cocoa water customers will now pay the tax rather than just property owners so that everyone will share the burden of the cost and it will decrease the cost increase per person. He also briefly discussed the Fire Assessment fees.

City Manager Titkanich presented the budget broken down by category and department. He announced that the second and final Public Hearing on the budget will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2017.

He opened the discussion to the public for questions and comments.

Roderick Mc Gowen, 3815 Sentry Drive, Cocoa, Florida, asked if there will be a tax on sewer and reuse water as well. City Manager Titkanich replied that the tax will only be applied towards regular water usage.

The discussion was closed to the public.

In closing, City Manager Titkanich declared how proud he is of City staff and how thankful he is for the services they provide.

Mayor Parrish spoke briefly about some of the up and coming projects that are taking place in the City as well as the City's gradual growth and improvements.

Chief Prince provided an update on the new Fire Stations. He explained some of the factors that determined the locations of the new stations and he announced the projected opening dates for all three stations.

A citizen thanked Chief Prince and his staff for all of their hard work and dedication.

Chief Cantaloupe thanked all of the citizens for supporting the Police Department. He provided statistics on the amount of incoming calls the Police Department receives. He shared an update on the new Code Enforcement office that relocated to the Police Department and provided an update on the number of cases they are currently working on. He stated that the Code Enforcement staff is always willing to work with citizens to help them achieve compliance and help maintain the community.

Chief Cantaloupe mentioned the Police Department's Internet Exchange Program which offers two locations at the Police Department to provide a safe place for citizens to meet to exchange goods they've purchased online.

He provided a brief update on the new Police dog, Copper and noted that the Police Department is working with Space Coast TPO in order to uphold traffic laws.

Furthermore, he stated that the Police Department is maintaining an emergency contact list for Cocoa businesses if anyone is interested in being added to the list. Lastly, he shared recent crime statistics and pointed out that they have all decreased. He went on to share contact information for the Police Department and stressed the importance of calling 911 in an emergency. Additionally, he provided a brief update on proactive patrols.

A citizen inquired about lock boxes in the event of an emergency. In response, Chief Cantaloupe stated that he would have Officer Chris Hattaway contact her the following day to coordinate a time to have the lock boxes installed.

Mr. Mc Gowen asked Chief Cantaloupe to inform the Code Enforcement Department of a debris issue on a property located by the old Winn-Dixie and McDonalds on SR 524. Chief Cantaloupe stated that he would meet with the Code Enforcement Manager to have the issue taken care of.

A citizen inquired about a traffic signal being installed outside of Lost Lakes. Mr. Weigerif stated there will not be a traffic light installed at this time but the City is working with FDOT.

In conclusion, each Council member thanked everyone for having them and thanked them for attending the meeting.

City Manager Titkanich announced opening dates for some of the big projects taking place in the City, such as the Flying J Gas Station which will be opening on Friday, August 18, 2017; the Wal-Mart Distribution Center which will open in September of 2018; the Mike Erdman Dealership which will open in the Fall of 2018; and the completion of Adamson Creek which will be finalized within the next three years.

Mayor Parrish announced that Council would be attending the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference from Thursday, August 17th through Saturday, August 19th.

Deputy Mayor Boisvert thanked everyone again and adjourned the meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

- * The Town Hall Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.**

Henry U. Parrish III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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