MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Regular Meeting of The City Council

February 27, 2024

A Regular City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 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 6:03 p.m.

Scott Billue provided the invocation and Wesley Park led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk took the roll.

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

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Abby Morgan, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Evander Collier, Police Chief; Katie Ennis, Assistant Utilities Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Samantha Senger, Communications & Economic Development Director; Robert Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Lori Chabot, Recording Secretary; and Lisa Richardson, Help Desk Support Tech.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. **Agenda:** Regular Meeting of February 17, 2024. (24-106)

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hearn; Seconded by Councilmember Goins to approve the agenda for the Regular meeting of February 27, 2024 as written with discussion.**

Councilmember Koss requested to move Consent items V.6(b), V.7(b) and V.8(b) to City Business. She shared that it is an interesting project that is worth millions of dollars and it deserves to be presented.

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hearn; Seconded by Councilmember Goins to amend the agenda for the Regular meeting of February 27, 2024 to move Multi-Year Consent Items V.5(b), V.6(b) and V.7(b) to City Business.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. **Minutes:** (a) Regular Meeting of November 14, 2023. (24-101)

(b) Special Meeting of December 19, 2023. (24-102)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Mayor Blake to approve the minutes for the Regular meeting of November 14, 2023.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn to approve the minutes for the Special meeting of December 19, 2023 as written.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

1. Presentation of CMC Pin to Monica Arsenault, City Clerk. (24-097). (Gwen Pierce, FACC Central East District Director)

Gwen Pierce, City Clerk of Satellite Beach and FACC Central East District Director, presented Ms. Arsenault with her CMC pin and offered her congratulations on completing the program.

2. Historic Cocoa Village Main Street's Annual Report. (24-107). (HCVMS)

Amanda Muzaurieta, Executive Director of HCVMS, presented Council with information for Historic Cocoa Village Main Street's Annual Report.

IV. Delegations:

J.B. Dennis, 3710 Catalina Dr., Unincorporated Cocoa, stated that he turned in a petition to the City Clerk and wanted to know why there was not an item on the agenda this evening. He also wanted to know when an item addressing the homelessness issue was going to be brought before the Council.

Councilmember Barringer shared that he feels the City is up and coming with a method to address the homelessness issue, however he can't give an exact date as to when an item will be brought forward to Council. He added that he has good faith that the conversation will be held in the short term.

Councilmember Goins thanked Mr. Dennis for bringing the petition forward, however he thinks the best time to discuss this issue is at the Budget meeting being held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 5pm.

Deputy Mayor Hearn added that Council is not turning a blind eye to the homeless. The City has been supporting its local non-profit organizations and he mentioned Matthew's Hope. He explained that there is certainly more to be done but the City of Cocoa cannot do it alone. He encouraged Mr. Dennis to visit the County Commission as well.

Wesley Park, representing the American Legion, Post #22 located at 241 Peachtree St., Cocoa, spoke about the upcoming Walk for Veterans. This will benefit the Be-the-One program and will be held on March 30, 2024 from 8am-2pm. He also shared the sponsorship details for anyone who is interested.

Katie Delaney, Unincorporated Cocoa, mentioned a comment made by Mayor Blake at the previous Council Priorities Workshop regarding annexing parts of Brevard County into Cocoa, which is concerning to her. In response, Mayor Blake asked Ms. Delaney what area of the County she lives in. Ms. Delaney shared she lives in Canaveral Groves.

Mayor Blake clarified that was not the area he was talking about and provided further specifications regarding which area he was speaking about when he made the comment.

Ms. Delaney shared that she is concerned that the City does not have a Strategic Plan. She also conversed with Council about impact fees and charging incoming developers their part instead of putting the burden on the backs of the middle class.

Mayor Blake shared that the State is looking at doing away with business tax receipts and pointed out that if that happens Council and staff are going to need to get creative on ways to make up for the loss of revenue.

Anita Gibson, 451 Stone St., Cocoa, has concerns about the budget for the Police Department. She wants to ensure that they are going to be equipped. She is worried that with all of the development coming in the city is going to need the police now more than ever.

In response to Ms. Gibson's concerns, Chief Collier shared that the Police Department is seven vacancies down and they are on their way to being fully staffed.

Ms. Gibson added that while at times it may be hard to agree on things, Cocoa is one unit and she is proud of this community.

Scott Billue, President of Matthew's Hope, 825 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, shared that Matthew's Hope has added a second day of medical care and added an extra nurse practitioner. He shared further information about how many people they've served and fed.

Additionally, they will be participating in the Cocoa Village Craft Fair and they will have a few individuals from their program working and selling some of the items they have made at their facility.

V. Consent Agenda:

(A) General Consent Items:

1. Approve a Resolution Amending the FY24 Budget, BAF# 24-046-A in the amount of $13,457 with the use of Federal Forfeiture funds to Train Police Officers in mandatory Active Assailant Training using Ultimate Training Munitions Contract # 47QSWA19D00AS for purchase of required equipment. (24-048). (Police Chief)

2. To Approve a Resolution Waiving the Competitive Bidding Process for the Purpose of Making an Exemption to Competitive Purchase through The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc. for the Replacement of the Existing Water Meter Test Bench and Related Appurtenances; To Approve the Purchase of the Water Meter Test Bench. (24-070). (Utilities Director)

3. Approve a Budget Resolution Amending the FY24 Budget, BAF#24-055-T, in the Amount of $110,000 for the Repairs of a VAC-CON Jet Vacuum Cleaner Truck System and a 2014 Tymco Street Sweeper. Authorize the City Manager to Approve Purchases up to the Budgeted Amount. (24-085). (Public Works Director)

4. Approve the FY 2023-2024 HOME Disbursement Agreement between the City of Cocoa and Brevard County in the amount of $310,488.38. (24-093). (Community Services Director)

(B) Multi-Year Contracts:

5. ~~To Approve the Friday Road Utilities Extension Project – Construction Admin Services and the Osage/Angelica Street Utilities Extension Project – Construction Admin Services Scopes of Services and associated rates with DRMP, Inc for Engineering Services During Construction for the Lakes at Cocoa Grove – Utility Extensions, Project No. WS21CG; To Approve A Resolution to Waive Competitive Bidding for the work; To Approve a 4th Amendment to the DRMP Continuing Services Agreement (RFQ No. 17-16-COC); To Approve as Multi-Year Contracts from FY2024 through FY2025. To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY24 Budget, BAF#24-059-ITF, in the Amount of $222,065 for Engineering Services (DRMP) and Replenishing Fund Balance (Fund 421) in the Amount of $1,223,744. (24-056). (Utilities Director)~~ Moved to City Business Item VIII.1.

6. ~~To Approve Task Order 2024-10 with Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc. for Construction of the Friday Road Utilities Improvements Project; To Approve as a Multi-Year Contract; To Approve a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve and Execute Change Orders in an Amount Not to Exceed $401,240.70 (10% of the Contract Amount) for a Total Project Cost of $4,413,647.70; To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Budget, BAF# 24-057-IFT. (24-057). (Utilities Director)~~ Moved to City Business Item VIII.2.

7. ~~To Approve Task Order 2024-09 with Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc. for Construction of the Osage/Angelica Utilities Improvements Project; To Approve as~~

~~a Multi-Year Contract; To Approve a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve and Execute Change Orders in an Amount Not To Exceed $371,738.53 (10% of the Contract Amount) for a Total Project Cost of $4,089,123.83; To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Budget, BAF#24-058-IFT. (24-058). (Utilities Director)~~ Moved to City Business Item VIII.3.

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

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VI. Public Hearings:

1. Conduct a Public Hearing to review the affordable housing real property inventory list and approve a Resolution identifying certain real property within the City to which the City holds fee simple title that is appropriate for permanent affordable housing. (24-031). (Community Services Director)

Ms. Neuterman shared the purpose of the item, explaining that Section 166.0451 of Florida Statutes provides that by October 1, 2023, and every 3 years thereafter, each municipality shall prepare an inventory list of all real property within its jurisdiction to which the municipality holds fee simple title that is appropriate for use as affordable housing. The inventory list must include the address and legal description of each such property and specify whether the property is vacant or improved. The governing body of the municipality must review the inventory list at a public hearing and may revise it at the conclusion of the public hearing. Following the public hearing, the governing body of the municipality shall adopt a resolution that includes an inventory list of such property that is appropriate for permanent affordable housing.

As part of the recommendation to adopt best practices for surplus land programs, the City is developing a program that will meet the requirements of Florida Statute 166.0451 and the Live Local Act. This program will be presented to Council for approval at a later date. Since there has been some interest in various parcels, staff intends to present to the City Manager several parcels that the City may want to negotiate terms and conditions of the disposition of the properties described on Exhibit "A" subject to the City Council's approval. Upon approval of the Resolution, it will be published as required on the City's website.

Mayor Blake opened the hearing to the public. There being no questions or comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn to approve a Resolution identifying certain real property within the City to which the City holds fee simple title that is appropriate for permanent affordable housing.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

1. Approve on First Reading an Ordinance authorizing the inclusion of the Winward Preserve and Lakes at Cocoa Grove projects located within the City of Cocoa into the Brevard County District 1 Road and Bridge Municipal Service Taxing Unit. (24-089). (City Attorney)

City Attorney Garganese stated that this is the First Reading of Ordinance 04-2024 and read the title into the record as follows:

Ordinance No. 04-2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA; CREATING A NEW ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 1, OF CHAPTER 19, *TAXATION*, OF THE CITY OF COCOA CODE OF ORDINANCES; AUTHORIZING THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY IN THE DISTRICT 1 ROAD AND BRIDGE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT, CREATED AND ESTABLISHED BY BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY OF COCOA AUTHORIZED FOR INCLUSION IN SAID UNIT; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Blake opened the hearing to the public.

Ms. Delaney had questions about the borrow pit on the Brightline property. She asked if the MSTU would have been needed from the point of development. Additionally, she talked about the two road options and asked if there is a plan to figure out how much to tax because one option is much more expensive than the other option.

She noted that it would be great for the residents to know if their neighborhood is going to get cut through or if the developer is going to build a new road behind their community.

City Manager Whitten explained that in the Stipulated Settlement Agreement, the County was to decide the ingress and egress for the development. Ultimately, they have decided that go with the road that will lead out onto Grissom Parkway right in front of the Amazon facility.

Furthermore, the County decides the boundaries of the MSTU. City Manager Whitten pointed out that in the Stipulated Settlement Agreement the subject properties are to be a part of the County's MSTU.

There being no further questions or comments, the public portion of the hearing was closed.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Goins to approve Ordinance No. 04-2024 on First Reading.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VII. Council Business:

1. Approval of a road closure date change and the addition of a street closure outside the CBD. (24-072). (Comm. & Economic Dev. Director)

Ms. Senger shared the details of the road closure date change, noting that the car show will be changed from March 10, 2024 to November 9, 2024. Additionally, the Space Coast Runners event has been added to the schedule but it will be outside of the CBD.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Barringer to approve the road closure date change and the additional street closure outside the CBD.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. Council approval of FY23 assigned fund balance listing requested to be able to complete the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for audit. (24-103). (Finance Director)

Ms. Bowman reviewed the FY23 fund balance designations and the proposed assigned fund balance for FY23.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn to approve the FY23 assigned fund balance listing being requested to be able to complete the FY23 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for audit, for discussion.**

Councilmember Goins asked if the paving amount being presented cover the costs of curb and gutter or is it simply the price of asphalt. In response, Ms. Morgan and City Manager Whitten confirmed that the amount being presented will include the costs of curb, gutter and sidewalks as well.

Councilmember Koss asked City Manager Whitten to address Brightline. In response, City Manager Whitten shared that the City has had positive discussions with Brightline and he is poised to believe that the City is designated to be the Brevard stop for the train station. He is hopeful that an official announcement will be made soon.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY[1] (5-0)

Mayor Blake made a request that staff put together a report indicating the positive accomplishment that the City has achieved.

VIII. City Business:

1. To Approve the Friday Road Utilities Extension Project - Construction Admin Services and the Osage/Angelica Street Utilities Extension Project - Construction Admin Services Scopes of Services and associated rates with DRMP, Inc for Engineering Services During Construction for the Lakes at Cocoa Grove - Utility Extensions, Project No. WS21CG; To Approve A Resolution to Waive Competitive Bidding for the work; To Approve a 4th Amendment to the DRMP Continuing Services Agreement (RFQ No. 17-16-COC); To Approve as Multi-Year Contracts from FY2024 through FY2025. To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY24

[1] Deputy Mayor Hearn left the room at 7:51pm & returned at 7:54pm

Budget, BAF#24-059-ITF, in the Amount of $222,065 for Engineering Services (DRMP) and Replenishing Fund Balance (Fund 421) in the Amount of $1,223,744. (24-056). (Utilities Director)

Mr. Walsh provided a background of the project. He explained that there is a Settlement Implementation Agreement pursuant to two previous Development Agreements for the property located at I-95 and State Road 528. The City of Cocoa has agreed to design, permit and construct water, sewer and reclaim services to this property subject to certain terms for development.

The design was completed as two separate design segments, Friday Road Extension and the Osage/Angelica Extension. The project was split into two separate segments as they are not contiguous segments and also allows for flexibility in the timing/schedule of construction based on the needs of the overall project.

At the time of the design, DRMP had an agreement with the City for Engineering Services for Conveyance Projects from RFQ 17-16-COC with its time extension amendments, which expired May of 2023. However, the Agreement stayed in effect under the work under Task Order 2021-21 was completed in December of 2023. Furthermore, because DRMP was the original design firm for the projects, and has intimate knowledge of the projects, staff is recommending one additional retroactive extension of the Agreement for the sole purpose of authorizing DRMP to perform Construction Administration Services for the Friday Road Utilities Extension Project and the Osage/Angelica Street Utilities Extension Project.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn to approve the item.**

Mayor Blake opened the discussion to the public.

Ms. Lil Leber, 5150 Dalehurst Dr., Unincorporated Cocoa, stated that a lot of money is being proposed to be spent by both the City of Cocoa and Brevard County. Her concern lies with her cost associated with a project that is still not permitted but is in jeopardy of getting permitted.

Mr. Richard Heffelfinger, 2000 Juniper Dr., Unincorporated Cocoa, asked for a brief overview of the schedule for the project. In response, Mr. Walsh provided information about what is going to be done, sharing that the Friday Road side of the project will start at the intersection of James Road and go north along into the

property. He provided further details of what will be done and shared that the work is planned to be started within this year.

Katie Delaney, has concerns with the plans that the developers submitted. She explained that the lot sizes don't seem to comply with the Stipulated Agreement. She is confused as to how these two communities are moving forward with violations of the Stipulated Agreement.

She pointed out that the County Commissioners and City Council are elected officials and are elected to protect their citizens. The decisions made here this evening will directly impact the homes in this area.

She is also concerned about the protected wildlife that live there such as bald eagles and gopher turtles. She reiterated that the job of elected officials is to consider the best interests of their constituents.

Additionally, by waiving the competitive bidding process, how are the people supposed to know if what is being approved is in their best interest.

She added that she is disheartened that this item was hidden on the Consent agenda and thanked Councilmember Koss for moving it off and bringing it to the public's attention.

There being no further questions or comments, the public portion of the item was closed.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

2. To Approve Task Order 2024-10 with Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc. for Construction of the Friday Road Utilities Improvements Project; To Approve as a Multi-Year Contract; To Approve a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve and Execute Change Orders in an Amount Not to Exceed $401,240.70 (10% of the Contract Amount) for a Total Project Cost of $4,413,647.70; To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Budget, BAF# 24-057-IFT. (24-057). (Utilities Director)

Mr. Walsh briefly explained the purpose of the item.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Barringer to approve the item, for discussion.**

Councilmember Koss wished to assure Ms. Delaney that she was able to sit down and review the entire file and she can promise that this is much better than what was initially proposed.

Councilmember Barringer stated that as Representative of District 3, whose District is being discussed this evening, he would like to say that he loves this project and loves the work that has gone into it. He cannot compliment staff enough by addressing the complexity that it has taken and the amount of work that has been invested already.

He is glad that the Cocoa is growing and there is no intent to annex the entirety of the Groves or Port St. John. There is a quality of life that is respected and the subject property that is being discussed has been invested in by private property owners who are meeting the requirements of any agreements that have been made.

Councilmember Barringer added that he did his due diligence before he came to the meeting tonight and if there was an opportunity for speaking everyone was given the opportunity to speak. He is glad that there is enough confidence in staff to spend ten million dollars because they provide the trust, effort and competency to address these types of issues.

He encouraged the public to reach out to their local representative with any questions or concerns they may have.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

3. To Approve Task Order 2024-09 with Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc. for Construction of the Osage/Angelica Utilities Improvements Project; To Approve as a Multi-Year Contract; To Approve a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Approve and Execute Change Orders in an Amount Not To Exceed $371,738.53 (10% of the Contract Amount) for a Total Project Cost of $4,089,123.83; To Approve a Resolution Amending the FY2024 Budget, BAF#24-058-IFT. (24-058). (Utilities Director)

Mr. Walsh provided a brief introduction to the item and offered to answer any questions.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn to approve the item.**

Ms. Delaney wished to add that while most of the inconsistencies have come from the County, she does not think it is appropriate for Council to berate the citizens for coming forward with questions.

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

City Manager Whitten wished to clarify some of the comments made and pointed out that staff does an excellent job of protecting the interests of Cocoa. He takes exception to any innuendos that the City is doing backdoor deals because that is not the truth.

He provided insight into how a citizen may find, download and view an agenda for a meeting on the City's website. He further wished to address Consent items and how they are available just as any other item on the agenda to the public.

City Manager Whitten presented a side-by-side of Strategic Plan information from the City of Cocoa, the City of Titusville and the City of Tallahassee. He wished to address the criticism that was put forth not only at the workshop, but at the meeting this evening that Cocoa does not have a Strategic Plan.

He provided examples of priorities that are being implemented by staff, including affordable housing projects and acquiring property in the Consent Decree area which has been in place for more than a number of years.

The City also has a Financial Operations Manual (FOM) that provides direction on how to plan out the fund balances and so he rejects the notion that the City does not conduct strategic planning.

City Manager Whitten stated that he will continue to address misinformation as it is presented and provide factual information.

Multi-Year Contracts:

None.

IX. Informational Agenda:

1. Data showing the relation between the estimated and actual income and expenses to date. (24-063). (Finance Director)

2. FY 2024 January Budget Adjustment Report. (24-064). (Finance Director)

3. Report of any 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. (24-065). (Finance Director)

4. Bi-Weekly Report Covering February 9 – February 22, 2024. (24-108). (City Manager)

X. Reports:

Mayor Blake recognized Ms. Senger for being on the front page of Brevard Business News.

Deputy Mayor Hearn recognized City Manager Whitten and shared that he received a plaque for his thirty years of service from ICMA.

City Manager Whitten highlighted several of the strides and efforts the City is making within the city.

Ms. Senger talked about the efforts the city is making to reach out to and support its Hispanic business owners. Additionally, there will be an upcoming seminar staff is partnering with the Clearlake Education Center in June.

She also shared that a Key to the City will be presented to Jawaan Taylor at the March 26, 2024 City Council meeting.

Mr. Beach talked about the new computer lab at the Dr. Joe Lee Smith Center. He shared that this was funded with ARPA funds and provided some pictures of the new lab. There were ten computers installed in total.

Ms. Senger added that a tentative calendar request was sent out to Council for April 2nd for a ribbon cutting of the lab.

Chief Lamm provided an update on the two high school students working their way up in the Fire Department. Additionally, the old Fire Station 1, which is the new Family Promise was presented with a Diamond award from the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for the project conversion.

Councilmember Goins provided some photos from Mardi Paws in the Park and the Black History Program event put on by the Cocoa High School Cheerleaders.

He shared that he also attended Unity in the Community and the Jake Williams Scholarship Gala.

Lastly, he talked about West Palm Beach being innovative with affordable housing. He presented a news article about West Palm Beach commissioners approving forty-eight apartments to be made from steel containers.

Councilmember Barringer publicly apologized to Chief Collier for not showing up to a meeting that had been coordinated with the department.

For the purpose of providing context, Councilmember Barringer shared a photo of a piece of property that is about a quarter of a mile outside of the city limits that has been vacant for a very long time that might be considered appropriate for annexation.

He talked about local eateries in Cocoa and shared a photo with his daughter while they were sharing lunch. He encouraged everyone to go out and eat locally.

Additionally, he spoke about the economic drivers of UCF. He pointed out that the City of Cocoa has a UCF campus right here in Cocoa.

Councilmember Barringer advocated for the Brevard Humane Society and all of the things they do.

Deputy Mayor Hearn shared a photo from the African American History Reading event he attended with Mayor Blake. He also attended the Jake Williams Scholarship Gala which was working to raise money for a scholarship for a student at Emma Jewel Charter Academy.

Lastly, he shared that he attended the Unity in the Community event. He is happy to see all of the activity going in on the City.

Councilmember Koss talked about the differences in Titusville's and Tallahassee's strategic plan. Additionally, she spoke with City Manager Whitten this morning about moving the three consent items and asked if she needed to make a motion to do so but was told the City Manager was going to reach out to the City Clerk to make the change. Additionally, she feels that she is berated for even bringing up changes to the minutes.

In all of her research she has seen that Consent items are supposed to be for routine items. She has never asked for any more than to be treated as an equal on the City Council. She simply wants the citizens to be part of the conversation.

Additionally, she explained that strategic planning is about building a vision and building consensus which was her initial argument for updating it and unifying their vision as a Council.

Councilmember Koss provided her District 4 report and shared photos from recent events she attended, including the Jake Williams Scholarship Gala.

Mayor Blake shared photos from recent events he attended including the Eastern Florida State College Melbourne Campus's Backyard BBQ, Cajun Soul Bistro Ribbon Cutting, the African American Read-in, and the United Way lunch held at Public Works.

XI. Adjournment:

* **MOTION by Councilmember Goins; Seconded by Councilmember Barringer, to adjourn the Regular meeting of February 27, 2024.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Barringer, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Monica Arsenault, City Clerk