MINUTES

CITY OF COCOA
MAYOR'S TOWN HALL MEETING

February 21, 2017

A Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at Cocoa Fire Station #1, located at 114 First Street, Cocoa, Florida, as publicly noticed.

I. OPENING MATTERS:

Mayor Parrish called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Present:	Henry Parrish	Mayor
	Don Boisvert	Deputy Mayor
	Brenda Warner	Councilwoman
	Clarence Whipple, Jr.	Councilman
	Jeri Blanco	Councilwoman
	John Titkanich	City Manager
	Matt Fuhrer	Assistant City Manager
	Angela Ferguson	Assistant City Clerk
Absent:	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney

Mayor Parrish welcomed everyone to the Town Hall Meeting and introduced Council to all in attendance. He pointed out that former Councilman Greenwood was also present.

City Manager Titkanich introduced staff.

Ed Wegerif, Public Works Director; Teri Butler, Finance Director; Mike Cantaloupe, Chief of Police; Gene Prince, Fire Chief; Jonathan Lamm, Deputy Fire Chief; Tom Redmond, District Fire Chief; Rusty Sengel, Fire Lieutenant; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Katherine Ennis, Deputy Utilities Director; Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Steven Belden, Community Services Director; and Trevius Folston, Helpdesk Support Tech.

II. Discussion Topics

1. Citizen Input

Mayor Parrish welcomed questions or comments from the citizens in attendance.

Aleck Greenwood complimented Mr. Wegerif regarding the overhaul of Florida Avenue and indicated it will be exceptionally beautiful when complete. He wanted all to know that approximately seventy (70) on street parallel parking spaces will be added and stressed their importance. The streets will be narrower which will force drivers to go a bit slower.

Mr. Wegerif spoke about the expansion of stormwater retention via an easement that was purchased from AT & T, which was good since the downtown area has very little.

Councilwoman Warner inquired if the Florida Avenue street project could be touted as a project to prevent run off to the Indian River Lagoon and in response Mr. Wegerif confirmed that it could. He added that the City had received $20,000 from the *Save the Indian River Lagoon* organization as result of the ½ cent sales tax to assist in further efforts and construct a baffle box.

City Manager Titkanich noted that this project was conceived by the Cocoa Community Redevelopment Agency and a partnership between Stormwater, Utilities, and the Space Coast TPO. He affirmed that there would be a ceremony once the project was complete.

Larry Sinclair, 1052 Mitchell Street congratulated Council and Mr. Wegerif for the drainage redesign and improvements in Broadmoor Acres. It means a lot to him and the residents. He thanked the Police Department, specifically Chief Cantaloupe and Officer Hattaway for attending the neighborhood watch at Olive Street and North Carolina Avenue, the turnout was good and the neighbors are responding. He told Mr. Wegerif that he liked the LED lighting on Fiske Boulevard and it was a sure mark of improvement. He said he will continue to work with the City to bring Broadmoor Acres back up.

Laura Houston spoke of former Councilman Furbish's service and that Cocoa was a better place because of him. She advised that the U.S. 1 CRA board members were brainstorming and asked if the City could name something in his honor and remembrance.

In response, Mayor Parrish informed her that Cocoa Fire Station #1 would be named in his honor.

Ms. Houston responded to Mayor Parrish's question regarding reducing crime and shared that the 800 apartments (800 N. Fiske Blvd) and the laundry mat

across the street is not a place to be out at night and suggested more police presence and visibility. Ms. Houston stressed that the problems are bigger than Cocoa and that the nation has seen a 25% increase in crime overall. She is very supportive to police and gives Cocoa a B+ on combating crime.

City Manager Titkanich spoke about the new employee healthcare center in opening in Satellite Beach and advised it was a partnership between Cocoa Beach, Rockledge, and Satellite Beach. There will be expanded hours for employees.

He shared that there was a good article in the FLC's Quality Cities publication about the health center. He shared that Cocoa experienced a 19% reduction in regular physician visits, a 30% reduction in urgent care visits, a 2 ½% reduction in emergency room visits, and an 11% reduction in generic prescriptions. He expressed that the center is well received and liked by employees.

City Manager Titkanich advised all that the City went out to debt twice and refunded the 2007 bonds from the City Hall build and indicated there was a 2.2% savings on the term of the debt. The City received an A+ rating and has a stable look which speaks well of the fiscal health.

City Manager Titkanich spoke about the various economic development projects of the City naming the new Wawa, Erdman Toyota and the new Walmart distribution center which will add at least 239 jobs for Cocoa and bring in and expected $100 million dollars in capital investments to the City. He advised the 2016/2017 Annual Economic Development Update brochure was available for any citizen that would like one.

He pointed out the population increase in the City of 11.7% since 2000.

Mr. Sinclair mentioned that the home vs. rental percentage is less than the national standard; below the 50% percentile.

City Manager Titkanich shared that Brevard County is going after the Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) in an effort to halt their future creation. He spoke in detail about the County resolutions and pointed out that the City of Cocoa's Diamond Square CRA is a poster child of why CRAs should exist. The City would be represented and be in attendance at the April 13, 2017 workshop. He advised all that the County needs to know how the citizens could be impacted and that those impacts could affect the future of the Diamond Square CRA.

Ms. Houston shared that she spoke with Commissioner Iznardi and that they are pushing it. She noted that Commissioner Iznardi and Commissioner Tobia will vote together. She will do further research.

City Manager Titkanich said it was a fight and reiterated his call on citizens to speak about their personal stories.

Mayor Parrish said Cocoa is walking into a political trial and the County needs know.

Councilman Whipple felt that City Manager Titkanich is their right one to reply for the City regarding the CRAs and that we as a City need to put something on the County's mind.

Ms. Houston felt that the expirations of the CRA's was a concern.

City Manager Titkanich explained the timeframes as noted in the CRA resolutions.

He referenced the true need to continue the Diamond Square RDA because the census tract is in the top 10 of the poorest in the state.

Councilwoman Warner thanked Larry Sinclair, Laura Houston, and Nancy Furbish for attending.

Councilman Whipple said he was glad to be here and wants to move forward with the citizens.

Deputy Mayor Boisvert thanked everyone for coming and that City Manager Titkanich hit a grand slam with his knowledge of the CRAs.

Councilwoman Blanco asked how the district meetings can be noticed more so the public is aware.

Ms. Furbish suggested Councilmembers compile email lists of their constituents and get the word out there in an email notification.

Chief Prince thanked all for coming and showed the new Squad 30 quick response rescue truck. He noted that the cost came under budget.

II. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Henry U. Parrish III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie Shealy, City Clerk
(Transcribed by A. Ferguson, Assistant City Clerk)