MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Regular Meeting of The City Council

January 11, 2022

A Regular City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 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.

Pastor Ryan Alonso provided the invocation and the students of Emma Jewel Charter Academy led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The City Clerk took the roll.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	Lavander Hearn	Deputy Mayor
	Rip Dyal	Councilmember
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Anthony Garganese	City Attorney
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Carie Shealy	City Clerk

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director; Evander Collier, Chief of Police; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Robert Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PIO; Ben Wenrich & Erik Montgomery, Helpdesk Support Techs.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. **Agenda:** Regular Meeting of January 11, 2022. (22-8)

2. **Minutes:** (a) Regular Meeting of October 26, 2021 (21-768)
(b) Special Meeting of November 30, 2021 (21-818)

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to amend the Agenda for the Regular meeting of January 11, 2022, by removing Item VII.2 regarding the lease of the Brevard Museum per their request and to place it on the January 25, 2022 agenda.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Koss; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to approve the Minutes as written for the Regular meeting of October 26, 2021 and the Special Meeting of November 30, 2021.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

1. Performance by the Emma Jewel Step Team. (21-31). (Councilmember Goins)

Councilmember Goins introduced the Emma Jewel Step Team and they provided a performance for the assembly. Ms. Cole introduced herself and the team and mentioned that they recently won first place in the Cocoa/Rockledge Holiday Parade. They showed their trophy and thanked the City for its support.

Councilmember Goins further pointed out that these students are not only scholars in classroom but are a diamond in the City of Cocoa. He thanked the school administration for all of their hard work as well.

IV. Delegations:

Alton Edmond, 630 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, spoke about the Police Community Relations Advisory Board and voiced concerns because the board had voted some time ago to have more meetings (every sixty days). They were informed by the City Attorney that this would take City Council action and requested for this to be

placed on the next agenda. He also requested that members of Council consider their appointee as there have been attendance issues.

Councilmember Koss informed him that issue had been brought up and it was supposed to be put on the agenda. Hopefully this will be on the next agenda.

Rev. J.B. Dennis, 3710 Catalina Drive, Cocoa, noted that he had a petition for an ordinance against loud car radios. He suggested certain fines be imposed and quoted Florida Statute 316.3045. He believed that an ordinance was needed to end the noise and madness and that it was time for the police to start cracking down on the issue.

C.J. Herriott, a radio programmer for WWBC located on West King Street in Cocoa, announced that February was the beginning of Black History Month and how many times we forget that there are every day heroes in our own community. He spoke about Richard "Dick" Blake and that he is a man who has touched many lives for many years. They are having a Richard "Dick" Blake broadcast day on February 6th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and anyone can voice their feelings about him and how he has impacted their lives. This will also be streamed on Florida Today's streaming service. He has planted seeds in this community and they are requesting a proclamation from Council as well for February 6th to be a day in Mr. Blake's honor.

Mayor Blake thanked them and knows his dad would be honored. Mr. Herriott thanked him for sharing his dad with them as well.

Kristin Lortie, Cocoa resident, advised she has seen this in other communities and they are allotted three minutes for each item. She announced that she is the moderator of the Cocoa Cares Community Group and that it was specific in the resolution that a speaker does not have to state their address. She further mentioned that this was a follow up to last weeks' workshop. She felt the Council workshop was revealing and healing and requested that a comment that she sent on January 10th be included in the record Ms. Lortie further mentioned a comment brought up by Councilmember Goins and that items can be brought up under Reports. She is interested in making sure that everyone is represented and that they all have fair representation.

She spoke about Council liaisons as well and if she misunderstood anything in the resolution she was willing to get feedback. She was looking forward to upcoming workshops, budget workshops, etc.

Ms. Lortie commented on Consent Item V.3 (21-814) regarding the General Employees Pay Plan. She pointed out that a position was being added to the existing pay plan and grades. Ms. Lortie stated she researched this and that the history goes back to the September 28, 2021 meeting where there was a graduated pay plan. For all City employees there was a major step in pay and provided numbers for Council's information. She feels this deserves more study by Council and that people should be aware of these things as they move in to budget season.

Next, Ms. Lortie commented on Consent Item V.8 (22-25) and hoped that the City does this. The City has created a project which is a floating wetland which may help reduce the outflow into the Lagoon and she likes this idea. This item is in regards to Lakemont ponds which had heavy vegetation removed back in 2020. She supports the collaboration so the City is not responsible for all of the funding.

Bernice Cox, 701 Aurora St., Cocoa, has been requesting police escorts for funerals for almost twenty years from two officers still employed with the City. She has always given a three-day notice and was recently told they are no longer giving escorts. She spoke of a recent event and believed that escorts should be provided out of respect. She felt they need to serve, protect, and respect.

Aleck Greenwood, 640 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, voiced his opinion on stating address and that the person should state the address of which they reside and provided his reasonings for that. He spoke about noise issues and that the City should speak with Rockledge. They do not have these issues and he explained why. He also mentioned the bar hours and that Cocoa has established itself as the place to live. He believed that if it was not broken then do not fix it. The job was being done to bring people to Cocoa.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Dyal, to extend Delegations for six minutes.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

Linda Dolphin, Cocoa resident, explained her beliefs on why it was important to not have people state their address. She stated that she attended the Council workshop as well and appreciated all of their efforts.

Linda Dolphin further spoke on behalf of Jenny Riggs and of Ms. Riggs' email sent earlier today. Ms. Riggs believes that fixing census block irregularities would benefit Cocoa and would like for her proposal to be included as a part of the official record of minutes of the last Districting Commission meeting.

V. Consent Agenda:

(A) General Consent Items:

1. Approve a Five (5) Year Service Contract Agreement with Accruent LLC, Austin, TX, who is the Owner and Sole-Source Provider for the Computerized Maintenance Management Software (CMMS) the Dyal WTP uses to Track and Maintain its Preventative Maintenance Program; To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Contract and Future Renewals, Purchase Orders, Change Orders and Amendments to the Contract; Pending Approval of FY23 through FY26 Budgets. (21-694). (Utilities Director)

2. Authorize the City Manager to utilize the State of Florida Department of Management Services, Contracts for Mobile Communication Services DMS-19/20-006A, DMS-19/20-006B, and DMS-19/20-006C with AT&T Corp. (AT&T), T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile), and Cellco Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless (Verizon) for cellular phone hardware and services up to the amount of $200,000 annually and authorize the City Manager to utilize all future extensions of the Contracts for Mobile Communication Services between the State of Florida Department of Management Services and AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon. (21-813). (Chief Technology Officer)

3. Approval of the requested Pay Plan change for Fiscal Year 2022. (21-814). (Administrative Services Director)

4. Approval of a Resolution extending the temporary outdoor seating permits through August 9, 2022. (22-18). (Interim Community Services Director)

5. Approval of a Budget Resolution Amending the FY2022 Budget, BAF#22-035-T in the amount of $50,000 from Contingency to Contract Services for the purposes of funding the required geotechnical services for City Planning and Zoning Projects. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a piggyback agreement with Geosyntec Consultants and allow for renewals in subsequent fiscal years. (22-2). (Interim Community Services Director)

6. Approve the FY 2021-2022 HOME Disbursement Agreement between the City of Cocoa and Brevard County in the amount of $443,626.61 and approve a Resolution Amending the FY2022 Budget, BAF#22-036-A. (22-22). (Interim Community Services Director)

7. Approve a Resolution Amending the FY22 Budget, Moving Excess Cash from the Capital Projects Fund (301) to the General Fund (001), BAF#22-039-A. (22-23). (Finance Director)

8. Authorize the City Manager to execute the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Project Cost-Share Funding Interlocal Agreement between Brevard County, Florida and the City of Cocoa (SOIRL 21-177). Approve the Budget Resolution recognizing the SOIRL Grant Funding Revenue for the installation of floating wetlands at the North and South Lakemont Stormwater Ponds. (22-25). (Public Works Director)

(B) Multi-Year Contracts:

9. Approve a Multi-Year Cooperative Purchase Agreement with Underwater Solutions, Inc., Mattapoisett, MA, Utilizing Orlando Utility Commission (OUC) Contract RFP #18 4601 OQ for the Cleaning of the Potable Water Storage Tanks and Clear-well from FY2022 Through January 7, 2024 with an Option to Renew for one (1) Consecutive five (5) year term. To Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Contract(s) and Renewals for Each Subsequent Fiscal Year. (21-759). (Utilities Director)

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn, to approve the Consent agenda.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

VI. Public Hearings:

None.

VII. Council Business:

1. Approval of Nominations to the Sustainability Advisory Board. (21-705). (City Clerk)

Mayor Blake advised that in the City Council's Rules of Procedures it does state that the address does not have to be stated if it is legibly written.

Kristin Lortie, Cocoa resident, stated that she had sent out a detailed email on January 9, 2022 and asked that it be included in the record. She voiced her support for the Sustainability Advisory Board and would like for it to move forward. She noted that the only information included with the agenda item were the nominees. She would have liked more information, such as why these people were important enough to be nominated. She is interested in the board and will be attending meetings.

Mayor Blake spoke about what was stated in the item, as outlined in Resolution No. 2021-128.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to approve the nominations.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

Councilmember Dyal added that since the board was just approved it will need a City Council Liaison. He would like to give up the Board of Adjustment to Councilmember Koss and be the Liaison of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Mayor Blake, for Councilmember Dyal to be the Liaison for the Sustainability Advisory Board and for Councilmember Koss to be the Liaison for the Board of Adjustment.**

Councilmember Koss has no interest in serving on the Board of Adjustment. Her Masters degree is in the sustainability field. She provided further information as to why she should be the liaison and that with her backing, experience, study, and perspective of the subject it makes her an asset on both the Board and Council. She is opposed to being the liaison for Board of Adjustment.

Councilmember Goins asked her to reconsider because being a liaison can sometimes handcuff you in a sense and can throw roadblocks. He added that everyone knows this board will be watched and it may benefit her in the mainstream of things.

Councilmember Koss appreciated his opinion and understands people are watching as it has been made clear.

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins
NAYES: Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED (4-1)

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to Nominate Councilman Dyal as the Liaison for the Sustainability Advisory Board.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

~~2. Staff is seeking direction regarding the finalization of the Operations and Maintenance Lease and Agreement between the City of Cocoa and the Brevard Museum and Sciences Center, Inc as a result of the ongoing negotiations related to this agreement. (21-805). (Public Works Director)~~

3. Consider Staff's Recommendation for the Cancellation and Change of Dates for City Council Meetings and all other Board meetings for the calendar year 2022. (22-7). (City Clerk)

It was pointed out that the date for the Swearing-In Ceremony many change, and if any issues arise meetings can be added.

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Councilmember Goins, to approve staff's recommendation.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

VIII. City Business:

1. Approve the Budget Resolution Amending the FY22 Budget, BAF# 22-032-A, recognizing the FIND Grant Funding Revenue (BV-CO-21-151 - Phase 2) for the re-construction of the Lee Wenner Park boat ramps, and FIND Grant Funding Revenue (BV-CO-21-152 - Phase 2) for additional dredging of the Lee Wenner Park boating basin. Award the projects to lowest and responsive Marine Contractor, C&D Construction in the amount of $1,206,494. Authorize the City Manager to execute both FIND agreements and use of construction allowance as necessary. Approve the temporary construction closure of the Lee Wenner Park

Boat Ramps, T-Dock, and Day Slips for approximately 80 days. (21-701). (Public Works Director)

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

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

2. Approve the Agreement between the City of Cocoa and Community Housing Initiative, Inc. (CHI) in the amount of $125,976.82 to rehabilitate the building located at 1138 Peachtree St, Cocoa, FL 32922 for Space Coast Recovery, Inc. CHI will be the Sponsor of the project during rehabilitation, ownership will transfer to Space Coast Recovery, Inc. upon project completion. Council authorizes the City Manager to sign all related documents upon project completion. (22-24). (Interim Community Services Director)

Ms. Neuterman provided a background to the project and explained how the funds would be used. This would rehabilitate this property to five bedrooms and the housing assistance is rental housing. She advised the applicants were here tonight.

* **MOTION by Mayor Blake; Seconded by Councilmember Koss, to approve the item.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

Mayor Blake thanked the applicants for being here.

Multi-Year Contracts:

None.

IX. Informational Agenda:

1. Cumulative purchase approvals over $35,000 and under $50,000 for period 10/01/2021 to 11/30/2021. (21-794). (Finance Director)

2. Calls for service provided by the Cocoa Fire Rescue Department for the month of November 2021. (21-811). (Fire Chief)

3. FY 2022 Budget Adjustment Report. (21-815). (Finance Director)

4. Data showing the relation between the estimated and actual income and expenses to date. (21-816). (Finance Director)

5. 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. (21-817). (Finance Director)

X. Reports:

City Manager Whitten advised that Consent Item V.3 was to add the Junior Network Administrator and he corrected a comment that everyone received a 26% pay raise. Staff spoke with Council about this proposal during labor negotiations and he reiterated that a new position was being added.

He further spoke about the Redistricting Commission and an email that was received and wanted to make the record clear that there was never a response from any staff of any kind to the member so he does not know what she is referring to as "icy". He is stating that in response to the facts not being presented accurately. Additionally, it is in defense of not only staff but for himself as professionals. It is hard to sit and have a narrative presented that is not factual and he will take these opportunities to correct the record.

Furthermore, they are looking at a date for Strategic Planning. He pointed out that they cities of Melbourne, Titusville, and Satellite Beach do not have strategic plans, but simply set goats for the year and they try to meet those goals and objectives each year. He stated they may want to consider doing something similar instead of a five-year plan.

Mayor Blake wanted to clear the record and supports the endeavors of the City Manager. He hoped he continues to have the proper protocol for leadership in the City. Daily operations for the overall execution for the City is on his shoulders and he supports him and believes he is doing a fantastic job. Additionally, he hopes he continues to have a positive rapport with staff and citizens. One or two citizens will not hold him hostage.

Councilmember Dyal agreed and Councilmember Goins voiced his upmost respect and trust for the City Manager.

Deputy Mayor Hearn concurred.

Councilmember Koss supports the City Manager when he is operating by his guidance. She is not airing any complaints but is opposed to the idea to only set yearly goals and does not support that direction.

City Manager Whitten thanked Mayor Blake but advised that his comments were in defense of staff. He is in the DROP program and this is his last stop in government. He wakes up with the intent to do the best job that he can for the City. He pointed out that he did not do a good job in defending Ms. Neuterman and it was the first time of ever seeing staff called out in a presentation. He further provided the example of tonight with the pay plan item. Staff is working to do the best they can do and he does not want citizens to walk away thinking that the narratives being presented are facts. They may be on occasion but in this instance, it was not.

He is committed to defending staff and their professional reputations. He will defend himself and he is not afraid of that. If you think he is going to back down because questions are asked or a narrative is presented to get him to back down then you do not know him. Nobody is perfect, but again, to say that every person got a 26% pay increase is incorrect.

Mr. Smith spoke about Brightline and announced that on January 17th they would start training so they will be running on the tracks. Trains will not go over 60 mph as it is a simple training process.

Ms. Senger announced that the Mayor's Fitness Challenge has started and registration runs from January 29th through the end of March. You can register at any time throughout the challenge. There is a kick-off event in Viera on January 29th. The website is www.cocoafl.org/mayors and there is a link to register. The winner gets named "Most Fit City 2022". Mayor Blake challenged Council and staff to register as well.

Ms. Senger further mentioned that a new mobile app would be coming out which will upgrade the current app and provide more services. It will be available in both Google and the Apple Play Store.

Lastly, she reminded everyone that the Annual Economic Development Update Breakfast will be held Friday, January 14th and they are inviting local students to

have lunch as well from Cocoa High School, Endeavor, Emma Jewel, and Cambridge. They will be learning about their local government.

City Manager Whitten expressed how proud he was on the initiative to have lunch for students after the breakfast. He thanked staff for the event.

Ms. Bowman announced that as of yesterday, January 10th the Customer Service window will be closed during lunch hours due to Covid. She explained that there have been several employees who are positive, exposed, etc. so they have determined it necessary to close the counter during lunch so they can have less employees in the office and to try to keep others healthy. Envelopes are being put out by the drop box. This will be until further notice.

Mayor Blake is a firm believer in keeping government open but in a safe and positive manner so that all stay healthy.

Chief Lamm provided an update on Covid and advised that there has been a 30% increase in positive cases in the last few weeks. The daily average in Brevard County is over 1,000 per day. The variant is very strong and they are watching it closely from an emergency management side to try to not only protect employees but citizens as well.

He further announced that with the help of the City Manager and State Representative Sirois they have acquired 5,400 at home test kits. They will be giving those away on Thursday, January 13 from 8:30 until 3:30 p.m. or while supplies last. There will be drive thru locations at the Joe Lee Smith Center and at the old Fire Station #3 on Michigan Avenue. One kit will be issued to every individual in the car and each kit has two tests. This information has gone out on social media and on the City's website.
Mayor Blake thanked Representative Sirois as well and appreciates the effort.

City Manager Whitten thanked Public Works for going and getting the tests from Brevard Health Alliance.

City Manager Whitten mentioned on behalf of Administrative Services that they are in the planning stages for a CareerSource Job Fair at the Joe Lee Smith Center on February 24, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. More details will be available as it gets closer.

Attorney Garganese addressed two issues that arose earlier in the meeting, one regarding delegations and the other issue of noise. He first mentioned the gentleman who spoke about a noise issues and why it was not being enforced. Attorney Garganese explained that it was not an enforceable statute but assured him they are listening to him.

Secondly, he advised that when an individual speaks under Delegations they are given a total amount of time. Nothing specifies that they get time for each issue they are speaking on. They are allotted a specific amount of time. A person cannot come up with fifteen cards and be allotted forty-five minutes.

Mayor Blake thanked him for the explanation and that one person or a couple of people can monopolize a lot of time especially if a person is expressing concerns of another. He is in agreement with Amendment 1 but they have a commitment to the City of Cocoa.

Mayor Blake spoke in reference to a meeting that was recently held at the Joe Lee Smith Center which was intended to be a small meeting but grew in numbers. It was held to address the issue of homelessness. There are homeless people residing in the woods adjacent to a community. He was thankful for the participation in the meeting but noted that we cannot stop there. He further shared that last night he, along with Councilmember Koss met with Rob and Drew who are affiliated with Habitat for Humanity and Brevard Coalition and they need to move forward with this. He feels organizations such as churches, families, non-profits, as well as local governments should all be involved. Pastor Randy and Ryan Alonso have been to conferences and are here tonight as well. This is a widespread problem and he feels services should be created. He is asking that a task force be created and would like the staff, the City Manager, and the City Attorney to come back with more information on this.

Pastor Randy Alonso spoke about an organization in Los Angeles called the Dream Center. There are several others in the United States. Matthew Barnett runs operations and one of the large hospitals were condemned and this ministry refurbished it and have become a model for how to help the homeless. They have helped tens of thousands of people.

Pastor Ryan Alonso, pastor of Central Life Church in Cocoa noted the church was active in the City, serving and helping with many needs. They want to contribute and help in any way they can. They want to be a value in anyway they can to help with this.

Councilmember Goins thanked all for coming and listening as well. He concurred with others that the workshop last week was a good opportunity for them to be open and honest and appreciated everyone for being open-minded.

He mentioned that Cocoa PAL would be having the MLK "I Have a Dream Basketball Expedition" this Saturday at 10 a.m. He thanked Councilman Horace West from Haines City for the donation of jerseys. Additionally, PAL needs more coaches, Gatorade, volunteers, etc. Anyone interested can contact Delores McLaughlin.

Councilmember Goins spoke about the Parks and Recreation contract and voiced his frustration as they are not meeting the needs of the City. He asked that the City Manager have a conversation with them in regards to maintenance as well as taking back some of our parks. The pool at Joe Lee Smith is still not working properly as water is flowing out to Washington Street daily. There are several other issues with the Center as well. He requested that something be brought back as an update.

He thanked the Districting Commission for all of their hard work and thanked his appointee, Ed Green for advocating for District 1.

* **CONSENSUS AMONG COUNCIL TO DO A PROCLAMATION FOR RICHARD "DICK" BLAKE.**

Councilmember Goins further asked about an update on park improvements. In response, the City Manager advised they were in the process of bidding those and will be back to Council with that information when it is ready. Mr. Smith added that they were waiting on civil designs as well, so until they get those done they cannot do anything. It will be awhile. City Manager Whitten agreed to get with Ms. Senger to get a public output campaign so that the public is aware of what is going on as well.

Councilmember Goins asked to be kept informed of what exactly was happening so they were all in the loop. Mr. Smith agreed and noted smaller details could be presented to them when they get to that point.

Councilmember Dyal stated that since the last meeting they have done a lot. They had the Holiday Parade, the bike parade of which he judged, and also gave out toys from the Police Department. He thanked the Fire Chief for allowing him to

drive the antique truck. He believes they will move forward with a lot of great things this year.

Councilmember Koss spoke about the Tree Beauty Contest that was held for trees last year and although they only received a handful of participants they wanted to find some way to educate people on the trees. She showed two photos of the previous contest winners which were of invasive species. She explained both of them and why they were invasive.

She pointed out that Arbor Day is April 29th and asked for a consensus to move forward with another Tree Beauty Contest.

* **CONSENSUS AMONG COUNCIL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ANOTHER TREE BEAUTY CONTEST THIS YEAR.**

Councilmember Koss spoke about parks and noted that Fern and Prospect Park was recently changed to Gilmore. She would like for Travis Park, as well as the Johnny Johnson Trails (more often referred to as Clearlake Trails), to be renamed to Clearlake, as it would have more sense of community. She would like both of these placed on an agenda so that they could deliberate about a name change.

She pointed out that tomorrow night she would be having a Community Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Brevard Museum. There would be discussion on strategic planning and she spoke about why they are useful. She appreciates the fact that big budget items can be attached to a plan and any monies available deserve to be funneled and guided through long-term effects and by citizens. Tomorrow they will be doing something similar. Masks will be required. She is hoping to do more of these on Zoom in the future to make it easier for people to participate.

Councilmember Koss participated today in Elevate Brevard which is now Elevate Cocoa. She is excited about this organization and advised that Dr. Doaks has taken on the directorship of Elevate Brevard. She will no longer be at Endeavor. The goal is that by 2030, sixty percent of Cocoa's population have some sort of credential. It is collaborative and they will be hearing a lot more about it in the future.

Lastly, she mentioned her attendance at the Brevard County Planning and Zoning Board where she was appointed as an alternate. She was looking forward to that and about learning planning and zoning so that she can offer whatever she needs to in order to make Cocoa's future brighter.

Deputy Mayor Hearn wished all a happy new year and was excited about 2022. He urged all to continue practicing good hygiene because the flu is also still out there and they are seeing an influx of that as well.

He will announce new trash pick-up dates in February. He was able to attend the PAL Winter Fest and stated he had a great time. There were a few other members of Council as well as the Cocoa Police Department. The kids were engaged with the officers and he felt that was important.

He spoke of his attendance at the meeting regarding the homeless and felt it was informative.

Lastly, he thanked Council for the retreat and thought it was good to have. They will not always agree but they can move forward. He was excited for what is to come and wished all to stay safe.

Mayor Blake wished all a happy new year with new accomplishments and goals. He believes the sky is the limit and that we will be successful. Productivity and growth was there.

He provided a shout out to first responders and spoke about his attendance at the 5K sponsored by Doug Monda. Many organizations were represented throughout the County.

Mayor Blake acknowledged the installation of Pastor Brock at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church this past weekend. He thanked all for attending.

Mayor Blake thanked staff, the employees and the City Manager for doing what is best for the City of Cocoa.

He reminded all to Buy Local, Spend Local, and to Keep it Local.

XI. Adjournment:

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hearn, to adjourn the Regular meeting of January 11, 2022.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANMIOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie Shealy, MMC, City Clerk