MINUTES
City of Cocoa
District 4 Town Hall Meeting

October 19, 2021

A District 4 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at Cocoa High School in the Auditorium, located at 2000 Tiger Trail, in Cocoa, Florida, 32926, as publicly noticed.

I. Opening Matters:

Councilmember Koss called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, pointing out that the more public participation and engagement we receive the better off we become.

Mayor Blake acknowledged Principal Wilson and Councilmembers in attendance.

Mayor Blake provided the invocation and Councilmember Koss led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

City Manager Whitten introduced staff in attendance.

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

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Evander Collier, Chief of Police; Samuel Byrd, Deputy Fire Chief; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PIO; Charlene Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director; and Angela Essing, Economic Development Director. Officers from the Community Involvement Division were in attendance as well.

II. Department Presentations/Discussion:

Principal Wilson provided updates on Cocoa High School and advised that he became principal in January, 2017. They have accomplished quite a bit during this time. He spoke in regards to the Chorus, noted they have the highest dual enrollment graduates of all schools in Brevard County, the highest number of CTE graduates, and the most honor grads, all while he has been principal. The school is not perfect but encourages good academics. They are still recovering from the pandemic and they continue to strive for excellence.

Councilmember Koss mentioned that she had prepared a power point but due to technical difficulties was not able to show it. She spoke about planning and development and advised that redistricting would be happening soon due to the census being complete. She provided a brief explanation about the redistricting process.

Councilmember Koss noted that there was a lot of economic growth happening such as Integra, Amazon, and the shopping center across from Publix.

Ms. Neuterman, Interim Community Services Director, provided an overview of current and upcoming development in the City. She stated the majority was along the SR 524 corridor, and further mentioned the Cocoa Grand apartments, Cirrus apartments (old Winn Dixie plaza), and apartments next to the fire station on S.R. 524.

Discussion was held on how many of these incoming developments would be affordable housing and the new housing project at the end of Friday Road.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the S.R. 524 updates and where that project stands.

Councilmember Koss advised that she is a member of the Space Coast TPO and will be urging them to push up the SR 524 project.

She spoke about the City's Strategic Plan and wants a city with a vision and outcomes she hoped for to come from the Plan. Sustainability and Resiliency was discussed as well and it was pointed out by Ms. Neuterman that in regards to new development, those items are encouraged but not mandated.

Councilmember Koss mentioned the tax base and the amount of monies being spent on parks in the City.

It was voiced that Stradley Park was in dire need of repairs and improvements. In response, Councilmember Koss pointed out some of the updates coming to

parks such as bathrooms at Gilmore and Anderson Parks, a splashpad and pavilion at Junny Rios Martinez Park, etc.

Further discussion was held on the issues of Stradley Park.

Councilmember Koss requested that the park issues be placed on the list and announced that she would be holding a community meeting at the pavilion at the Brevard Museum on Saturday, November 13th at 1 p.m.

Councilmember Koss added that the parks are maintained in conjunction with Brevard Parks & Recreation and Travis Park was recently downgraded, which is in District 4. Additionally, the Cocoa YMCA did not receive funding so they have no pool. Discussion was also held in regards to the EFSC Cocoa campus.

Bob McClure with Brevard County spoke about Mud Lake and the Conservation area and provided a history of that. He spoke about flooding and that a grant was received from FEMA to help restructure the Mud Lake area.

Ms. Phyllis Moscoso provided a detailed update on the status of the Brevard Museum. She pointed out that they were working with the City to get a lease in place. There will be a re-grand opening when it was all finalized and she stated that information would be available on the museum's website.

Mr. Walsh provided an update on the Septic-to-Sewer project and explained in detail the design process. He noted that process would be closed in December and advised more information will be available in the future on the City's website. He further provided ways that one could get a credit if their address is not included. He will try to get a listing of the addresses that are included.

He answered questions from citizens in regards to residents of Indian River Drive being proactive in regards to the project and reiterated how people can be included in this project. In regards to a question about the water plant and how long it can handle the new development, Mr. Walsh assured everyone that they are fine.

Ms. Moscoso added that on September 28th the City Council approved $70,000 for the Museum.

Councilmember Koss announced that the City has a new Police Chief and since he has come in crime is down in the community and we are heading in the right direction for crime decreasing in the whole city. She introduced Chief Collier.

Chief Collier provided a brief history of himself and stated that you have to have community involvement and he has been out walking neighborhoods. He has

created the Community Involvement Department and acknowledged some of those officers who were in attendance. He further explained his plans for the police department and spoke of the need for more officers and competitive wages.

A question was posed about officers' training and if they are trained to help people with mental and substance abuse disorders. In response, the Chief stated yes and explained different methods of training they receive.

In response to another question in regards to if the City was adequately covered by law enforcement, Chief Collier stated they are still reviewing numbers in regards to that.

He spoke in furtherance of parks in the City, specifically Provost Park, and also explained the police department's de-escalation process and training officers receive. Lastly, he spoke about the Police Advisory Board and that they meet quarterly.

Lastly, a citizen requested more lights on Clearlake Road.

In closing, Councilmember Koss mentioned the Citizens Academy and recognized all of those attendees, along with Board members in attendance.

XI. Adjournment:

The District 4 Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Michael C. Blake

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie Sheafy

Carie Sheafy, MMC, City Clerk

CITY OF CLEARLAKE SEAL FLORIDA