MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Regular Meeting of The City Council

June 6, 2023

A Regular City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 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 6:08 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Hearn provided the invocation and District Chief Redmond 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 (via phone)
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Kristin Eick	Assistant City Attorney
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Carie Shealy	City Clerk

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Walsh, Utilities Director; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Tammy Gemmati, Administrative Services Director; Samantha Senger, Director of Communications & Economic Development; Evander Collier, Chief of Police; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Rob Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Tom Redmond, District Chief; and Lisa Richardson, Help Desk Support Tech.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

1. **Agenda:** Regular Meeting of June 6, 2023. (23-341)

2. **Minutes:** (a) Regular Meeting of April 11, 2023 (23-348)
(b) Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023 (23-349)

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hearn; Seconded by Councilmember Koss, to approve the Agenda as presented for the Regular meeting of June 6, 2023.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hearn; Seconded by Mayor Blake, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 11, 2023 as written and the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023 as written.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

III. Awards and Presentations:

1. Update on "Mission Space Coast" by the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. (23-293). (Angela Neal, Director of Special Projects)

Ms. Neal provided a presentation[1] on the Economic Development Commissions initiative "Mission Space Coast". She explained what this branding initiative was about and stated that in addition to municipalities, the County and other businesses have accepted this as well. They have also worked with the County and other businesses and all have accepted this.

She provided detailed information on the process, which includes Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III and further explained how you can get involved.

Councilmember Koss encouraged those who wish to participate to come to the upcoming meeting on June 14th. She thought this was really nice and thought that it was great that she was visiting all of the municipalities.

Mayor Blake wanted to ensure that Cocoa is not hiding behind the brand. He gave kudos to her and their staff.

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1 EXHIBIT A: Presentation on Mission Space Coast

IV. Delegations:

Aleck Greenwood, Cocoa resident, spoke on the possibility of vehicles that do not drive more than twenty miles per hour to take visitors around the village. He stated these are Model-T's and examples will be brought for them to see. He asked for a consensus from Council for this type of vehicle to be driven in the downtown area.

Mayor Blake advised that this would have to come back as an agenda item. He would like the City Manager and City Attorney to look into this in furtherance.

Councilmember Goins pointed out that a detailed email was received from Assistant City Attorney Eick and felt that it would be nice to be put on the next agenda, as other cities are doing this as well.

Mr. Greenwood spoke about prior council members and supplied each member of Council a letter written by a councilmember to St. John's Water Management District in regards to a property on Dixon Blvd. He stated that this letter answers a question that was previously asked by Councilmember Goins at a council meeting but was ignored.

Councilmember Koss explained that this letter was to St. John's Water Management District and this property was up for public comment because they had applied for an extension of their permit. The public had so many days to comment and she did so. She will not be judged by pulling out three or four other women from past councils. She stated that this was not personal and her position on the properties on Dixon and Indian River Drive have nothing to do with him. This is a sensitive area and SJWMD will determine the outcome.

V. Consent Agenda:

(A) General Consent Items:

1. Approve a Resolution to Waive Competitive Bidding, by way of Sole Source to Southern Sewers Inc of Orlando Florida for the repairs to the VACCON Jet - Vacuum Cleaner Truck System and authorize the City Manager to issue the purchase order. (23-314). (Public Works Director)

2. Approve a Budget Resolution, Amending the FY2023 Budget, BAF# 23-080-T in the amount of $231,146; Approve Change Order #1 for Elenis Contracting LLC/PO 80847 in the amount of $231,146; Approve Project Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Issue Change Orders with a Total Project Contingency not to exceed $273,559 for the Dyal Ground Water Filter #3 Project (WS23DF). (23-321). (Utilities Director)

3. Approve the First Amendment to Purchase Agreements with Atlantic Development of Cocoa, Inc., and Danus Utilities, Inc. under RFQ Q-20-18-COC; To Award RFQ Q-20-18-COC, General Contractor - Utility Systems, to Hinterland Group, Inc.; To Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to Negotiate and Execute the Agreement for Utilities General Construction Contractor with Hinterland Group, Inc. (23-322). (Utilities Director)

(B) Multi-Year Contracts:

4. Approve Participation in a Multi-Year Piggyback Agreement with Crom, LLC for Concrete Tank Repairs Utilizing the City of West Palm Beach Master Water Storage Tank Cleaning and Repair Services Agreement Amendment No. 1, Effective June 4, 2019 through June 3, 2024; To Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Piggyback Agreement and any Amendments and Renewals Under the Existing Contract; To Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Purchase Order to Crom, LLC in the Amount of $161,163.90. (23-281). (Utilities Director)

5. Approve a multi-year interlocal agreement between the City of Cocoa and the City of Rockledge for School Crossing Guard services for the school year commencing August 10, 2023, and end May 24, 2024. (23-317). (Chief of Police)

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

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

VI. Public Hearings:

None.

VII. Council Business:

None.

VIII. City Business:

1. Approve, as recommended, the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 benefit renewal medical, dental, life, and disability insurance; and to authorize the City Manager to sign related agreements. (23-309). (Administrative Services Director)

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

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

Multi-Year Contracts:

None.

IX. Informational Agenda:

None.

X. Reports:

Chief Lamm announced that there will be Hurricane Preparedness Giveaways on the following dates at the following locations. There will be fifty kits available at each location. It was also noted that it would be pushed out via social media. Mayor Blake requested the information be emailed to Council as well as there are many elderly in their districts who do not have access to technology.

- June 23, 2023: Fire Station 3 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- June 23, 2023: Dr. Joe Lee Smith Community Center from 5-6 p.m.
- June 24, 2023: Fire Station 1 from 9-10 a.m.
- June 24, 2023: Brevard Museum from 10:30-11:30 p.m.

Ms. Senger announced that the Juneteenth Celebration would be this Saturday, June 10th from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Riverfront Park.

City Manager Whitten shared that this would be Bryant Smith's last meeting as he would be leaving his position with the City. He wished him well and all in attendance gave Mr. Smith a standing ovation for his service to the City.

Councilmember Dyal noted he would be back for the next meeting and staff was doing a great job.

Councilmember Koss provided a District 4 report and reminded everyone of the cluster of assets in District 4. She pointed out that District 4 was on the upswing with the $87 million EFSC investment; the $10 million Clearlake Corridor investment; the Brevard History Museum, and potential Brightline station. She explained the differences between lakes and ponds and showed photos of Clear Lake, both in the past and present. In closing, she spoke about what others are doing in regard to Septic to Sewer programs and shared a photo of her visit to the Aqua Lounge on King Street.

Deputy Mayor Hearn mentioned his attendance at the 30th Annual NAACP Banquet. He, along with other members of Council were there and it was a nice event. Elder P. Jones, Jr. was honored. He was looking forward to the Chief's Walk in District 2 tomorrow, June 7th as well.

Councilmember Goins advised that he, along with Mayor Blake, attended Ms. Johnnie Jenkins' 100th Birthday Party this past Saturday. Her family roots are here and it is good to celebrate people.

He stated that from June 26-30, 2023, Junior Achievement was hosting an Entrepreneur Summit from 1-4 p.m. for grades 9-12. This is a good opportunity for teens.

Lastly, he asked Chief Collier about policies at the police department for command staff and social media. He explained this in furtherance and would expect better from a member of the command staff. He further noted that he understands the freedom of speech and social media, but this person allowed members of the public to attack members of the police department, Council, and others.

Chief Collier advised that there are several issues and while there is the freedom of speech, there are also policies in regards to undermining the agency or being derogatory. He would need to see the post and felt that this would set them back because of what has been done in the past two years. He needed the information so that it could be looked into and evaluated.

Councilmember Goins appreciated his willingness to look into this and felt that accountability should never just go one way. He knows what all the Chief has been

through as well as other members of the Police Department and believes you should be able to trust your people.

City Manager Whitten stated that he was aware of the post and spoke in detail about the progress that has been made at the Police Department. He further pointed out a Certificate that they just received from the International Association of Police Chiefs.

Chief Collier spoke about this organization and shared that there were around twenty-five items that an agency had to identify that they were successfully doing. These are things such as new policies, standards, training, etc. They had three years to complete the standards and they started in July of last year and were done by September. Cocoa was one of twelve agencies that committed to doing this and it was done successfully.

City Manager Whitten added that there were things that have been implemented internally in both the police and fire departments. He reiterated the significance of the certificate and assured Council that they continue to move forward and not buy into the negative information out there, both internally and externally to the department.

Deputy Mayor Hearn stated that he has been approached by some in the community about a Code of Conduct for board members and some of them are feeding into the false narratives. These people are upset because they know the truth.

Deputy Mayor Hearn noted that the County was still in need of lifeguards and they could apply at fifteen years old.

Lastly, last Friday was the first Basketball Friday at the Joe Lee Smith Center that is hosted by Pastor Wash. It went smoothly and it is good to have something to keep the kids off of the streets.

Mayor Blake thanked Deputy Mayor Hearn and Councilmember Koss for being present at the signing early today with Nicole Tenpenny and Community Housing Initiative. Four homes will be built in the Michael C. Blake subdivision.

Mayor Blake shared a photo of himself and the Chief of Police as they presented Mr. Shah with a plaque thanking him for his support for the Cocoa Police Foundation. They also presented Mike Erdman and his wife with a plaque as well.

In conclusion, Mayor Blake thanked staff and all that were present for the Memorial Day event. The late Capt. Ed Lanni was honored, and former City Manager Holt was present, along with Shirley Lanni and several other Cocoa residents. Port Commissioner Justice was the keynote speaker. He thanked them all again.

XI. Adjournment:

* **MOTION by Councilmember Dyal; Seconded by Mayor Blake, to adjourn the Regular meeting of June 6, 2023.**

AYES: Blake, Hearn, Dyal, Goins, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

for

Carie Shealy, MMC, City Clerk



MISSION SPACE COAST

ONE VOICE - ONE BRAND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

Space Coast FLORIDA

CONTACT US

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EXHIBIT A: Presentation on "Mission Space Coast"

MISSION SPACE COAST

ONE VOICE - ONE BRAND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

Space Coast
FLORIDA

WHAT IS COMMUNITY BRANDING?





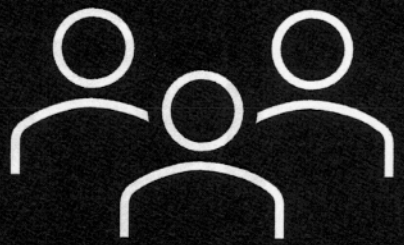
THE PROCESS

- **Phase I – Internal Brevard**
  - Step 1 – Community Conversations
  - Step 2 – Focus Groups
  - Step 3 – Internal Brevard Broad Survey
- **Phase II – External Brevard**
  - Step 4 – External Focus Groups
  - Step 5 – External Brevard Broad Survey
- **Phase III**
  - Step 6 – Brand Visualization & Design
  - Step 7 – Brand Launch

GET INVOLVED



Postcards



Popup Focus Groups



Photo Contest



Communication