MINUTES
City of Cocoa
District 2 Town Hall Meeting

April 20, 2021

A District 2 Town Hall Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at Endeavor Elementary School, 905 Pineda St., in Cocoa, Florida 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Councilmember Hearn called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

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

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	James Goins	Deputy Mayor
	Rip Dyal	Councilmember
	Lavander Hearn	Councilmember
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	Assistant City Clerk
ABSENT:	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryant Smith, Public Works Director; Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director; Samantha Senger, Assistant to the City Manager/PR Specialist; and Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager.

II. Welcome by Councilmember Hearn

III. Introductions of Council & Staff by Councilmember Hearn

IV. District 2 Improvements/Projects:

Councilmember Hearn gave a quick overview of the agenda for the evening. He invited Bryant Smith, Public Works Director, to give an update[1] on ongoing projects in the City.

---

[1] Exhibit A: District 2 Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Mr. Smith shared information about driver feedback (radar) signs and noted that they were recently installed on Pineda St. as part of the Pineda Street Reconstruction project. He added that they are a solar-powered low impact traffic calming solution and provide personalized feedback to each driver.

Park improvements within the City were discussed and Mr. Smith pointed out that Carl E. Anderson Park will be receiving new fencing and a playground replacement.

Lastly, Mr. Smith provided an update on the Fiske and Broadmoor Acres Stormwater project. He explained that the City is awaiting formal approval from FEMA, however this will help to address stormwater issues with a combination of front yard swales and new piping. This is a $3.1 million-dollar project with a possible seventy-five percent reimbursement upon completion. The construction timeframe is around two hundred and twenty days.

Ms. Angela Essing, Economic Development Manager, shared information on the Upstart Cocoa Small Business Program which is a program for minority or women owned businesses. She pointed out that this is a forgivable loan program and there are currently enough funds for two applicants. The program will be hand tailored to the selected applicants and the loan will be for ten thousand dollars. In order for the loan to be forgiven there are a few criteria that need to met such as the applicant will need to complete a community enrichment requirement and also stay in business for at least three years.

Ms. Essing also announced information regarding the American Rescue Plan. She noted that with the closing of Harvey's and Save-A-Lot, the City jumped into action to try and incentivize them to stay. Although Harvey's ultimately decided to close, the City is actively working to rescue Save-A-Lot.

A citizen asked if the City was aware of anything going into Harvey's, as she heard a rumor that Food Lion was considering the location. In response, Ms. Essing stated that she was not aware of anything at this time but would look into it.

Ms. Nancy Bunt, Community Services Director, announced that the City's new online permitting option was up and running and provided further details.

Deputy Mayor Goins asked if the City was still conducting virtual inspections. In response, Ms. Bunt explained that some inspections can be conducted virtually but some inspections must be done in person.

City Manager Whitten provided and explained the timeline for the police chief recruitment process. He mentioned the qualities staff was seeking in a new chief. He also shared that the new chief will live in the City.

Additionally, he elaborated on the process of the Selection Committee and pointed out various meetings held by the City which allowed for citizen input as well. City Manager Whitten provided a detailed background of the newly selected Police Chief, Evander Collier. He added that he will be starting with the City next week.

Redistricting was discussed and City Manager Whitten mentioned the Districting Commission which consists of five members appointed by each Councilmember and the Mayor. He shared a map of the current districts and explained why the redistricting takes place.

Mr. Smith talked about speed humps and pointed out that the City has a policy with specific requirements that will be available on the website soon.

A citizen mentioned an issue she is having at her house over by Mitchell Street and Pineda Street. She explained that people are not stopping at the stop sign and it is dangerous. In response, Mr. Smith noted that he would get with her to try and resolve the issue.

Ms. Bernice Cox, 701 Aurora St., asked about the requirements to have a stop sign or speed bump installed.

Jessie Smiley, 1101 Park Dr., shared that he is having an issue on Carolina Ave. with speeders. He asked for more police presence as well as "children at play" signs. Additionally, he inquired how he can get reclaimed water.

Ms. Tabitha Moore, 1102 Bellefonte Ave., added that she has issues with people speeding as well and is scared someone will crash into her house where her two children sleep.

Councilmember Hearn announced that the City is in talks of having sidewalks installed in the area so children won't have to play in the street.

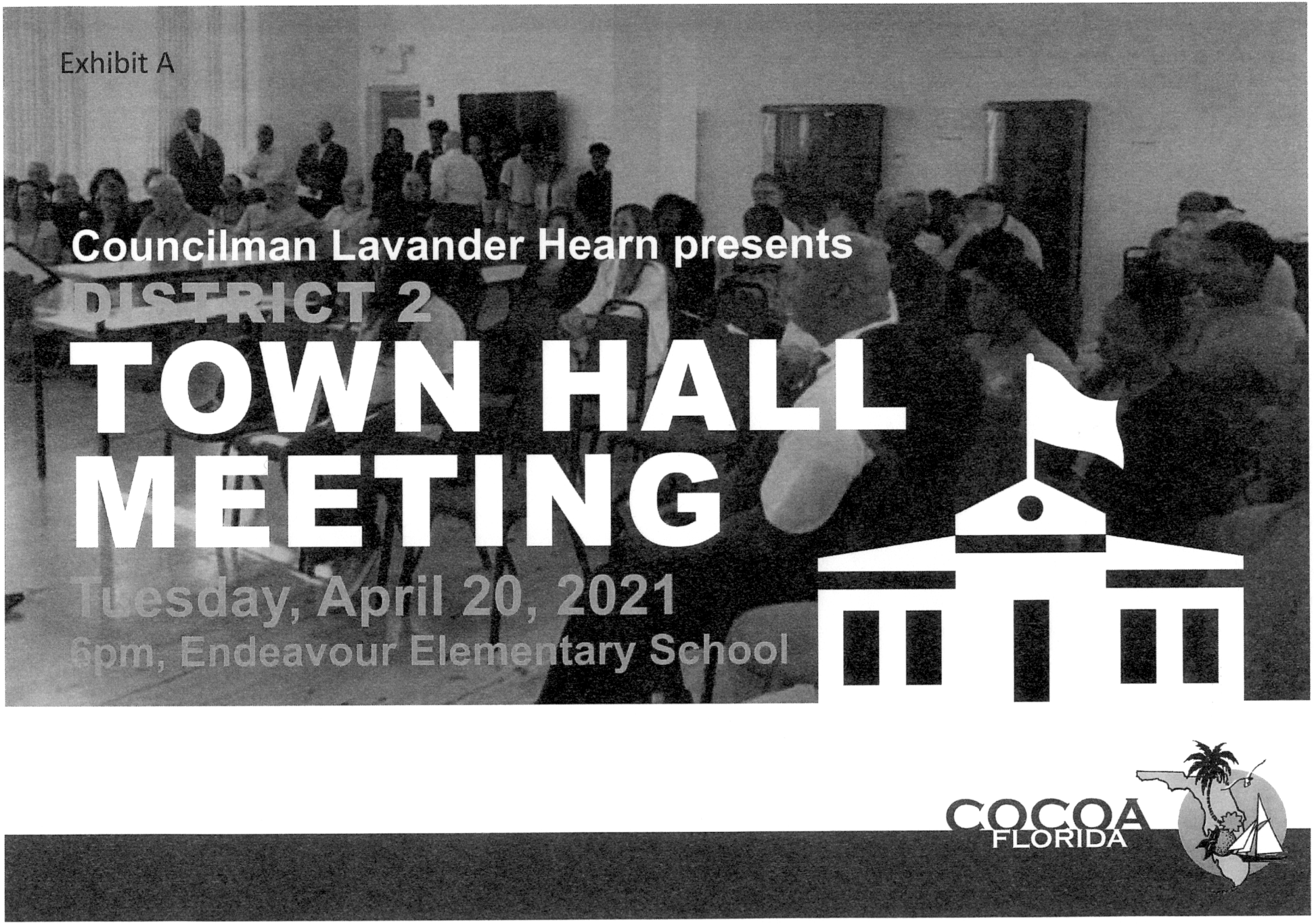
In closing, he thanked everyone for coming and encouraged more community engagement. He thanked Endeavor's staff as well as City staff for helping to put together the Town Hall meeting.

The District 2 Town Hall meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carie E. Shealy, MMC, City Clerk
(Transcribed by M. Arsenault, Asst. City Clerk)


Exhibit A
Councilman Lavander Hearn presents
DISTRICT 2
TOWN HALL MEETING
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
6pm, Endeavour Elementary School
COCOA
FLORIDA

WELCOME



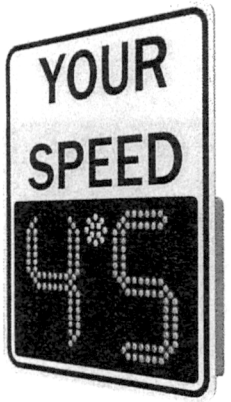
AGENDA

- Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
- Introductions of Council and Staff
- District 2 Improvements/Projects:
  - Speed Detector Signs
  - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant/Fiske Blvd. Drainage Project
  - New Playground at Carl Anderson Park
  - Upstart Cocoa – Small Businesses Program
  - Save-a-lot re-opening
  - Online Permitting
- Other Topics
  - Cocoa Police Chief Announcement
  - Redistricting
  - Speed Hump Process
- Questions

COCOA
FLORIDA

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

- Driver Feedback (Radar) Signs
  - Recently installed on Pineda as part of the Pineda Street Reconstruction Project
  - Low impact traffic calming solution
  - Solar-powered
  - Provide personalized feedback to each driver
- Future Locations
- Why not install them everywhere?



COCOA
FLORIDA

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

- Carl E. Anderson Park Improvements
  - New Fencing
  - Playground Replacement



- FEMA HMGP – Fiske and Broadmoor Acres Stormwater Project
  - Awaiting formal approval from FEMA
  - Will help to address stormwater issues with a combination of front yard swales and new piping
  - $3.1 Million Project with possible 75% reimbursement upon completion
  - 220 day construction timeframe

UPSTART COCOA SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

Team COCOA

Successful New Business

Loan Forgiveness

- community enrichment completed
- 3 year deferred forgivable loan

Funding

- based on weVENTURE worksheet outlining funding needs & priorities
- CRA Approval
- reimbursement

weVENTURE

- 24-week program
- refined business plan
- successful completion of worksheet outlining funding needs

Program Application

- business plan
- application
- community enrichment idea

Eligibility

- small business
- minority-owned and/or women owned
- for-profit
- new or relocating business
- 10% personal funding

Upstart Cocoa

- small business program
- community investment
- forgivable loan

weVENTURE

Established Business Track*

Month 6	Wrap Up
Month 5	Planning for Growth
Month 4	Marketing/Sales
Month 3	Product/Service Development and Innovation
Month 2	Business/Operations Management
Month 1	Financial Performance

Start Up Business Track*

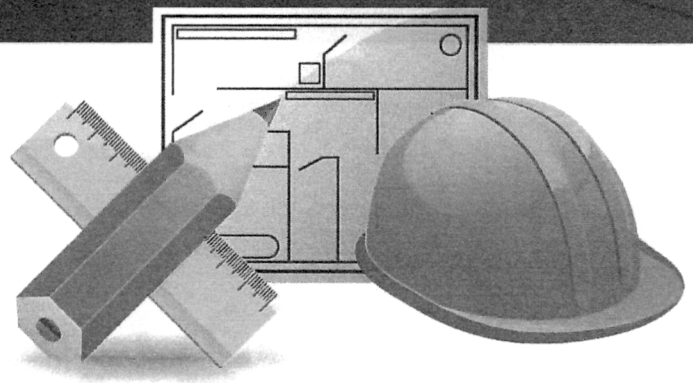
Month 6	Sales/Marketing
Month 5	Business Plan Refinement: Roadmap for Success Part 2
Month 4	Business Plan Refinement: Roadmap for Success Part 1
Month 3	Finance
Month 2	Business Management
Month 1	Intro/Business Essentials

**weVENTURE WBC will determine the track for the client during the vetting process. These topics and facilitation timeline is subject to change based on the needs of the Upstart Cocoa clients. However, the timeframe will remain the same – 6-months/24-weeks. This timeline is for demonstrative purposes only*

2-8-21 AE

COCOA FLORIDA

NEW ONLINE PERMITTING



COCOA
FLORIDA

POLICE CHIEF RECRUITMENT

Timeline:

October 2020

Ideal Candidate Develop-ment (Survey of residents, Council, and PD employees)

November 2020 – February 2021

Recruitment

February - March 2021

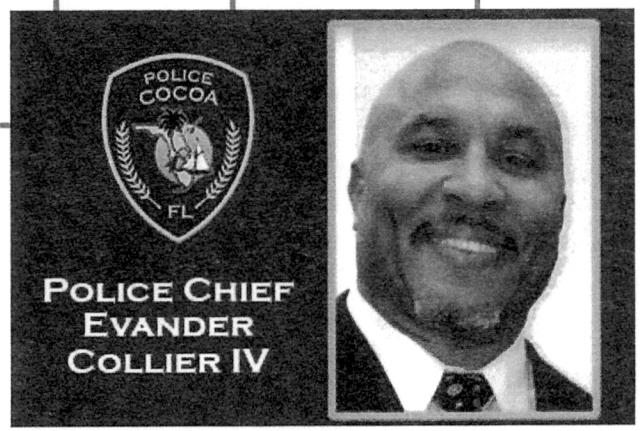
Candidate Evaluation

Citizen Committee Evaluation

Public Forums

April 2021

Candidate Selection



COCOA
FLORIDA

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

- Speed Humps
  - City has a policy with specific requirements
  - Will one speed hump be enough?
  - Why are they a last resort?



City of Cocoa, FL - Speed Hump Policy August 2011

DEFINITIONS:

This policy shall apply to requests made by citizens for Speed Humps and other Traffic Calming Devices.

A. A SPEED HUMP is a rounded raised area of pavement typically 12 to 14 feet in length and often placed in a series 300 to 600 feet apart across all lanes of traffic.

B. A SPEED CUSHION is a modified SPEED HUMP with an un-raised path for fire trucks and ambulances through the hump.

C. A TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE is an alternate method of slowing traffic and may consist of vertical or horizontal alignment changes, or narrowing of the roadway.

The following are minimum requirements for the installation of Speed Humps or Speed Cushions:

1. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS may be permitted on local residential streets only if at least two of the four following minimum justifications are met:

A. The 85th percentile speed of traffic exceeds the posted speed limit by more than 2 mph, or

B. The 95th percentile speed of traffic is greater than 35 mph, or

C. The 24-hour two-way traffic volume is greater than 500 vehicles per day, or

D. Cut-through traffic observed from outside of the local neighborhood comprises more than 50% of the traffic during the peak hour of the day.

2. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS will be considered by city staff on a case-by-case basis on city-owned commercial or "collector" streets with less than 2,500 vehicles per day.

3. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS will not be permitted on "arterial" streets.

4. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS will not be installed at any location unless 70% or more of the property owners within 500 feet of the proposed device(s) measured along the centerline of the street in each direction request installation in writing. A petition of support must be submitted with the request.

5. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS will not be installed closer than 200 feet to an intersection, nor less than 300 feet apart.

6. SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS must be deemed minimally acceptable and may be installed at locations approved by the Fire and Police Departments only after concerns over response time and vehicle damage have been evaluated.

Traffic data will be collected by city personnel using city equipment after receipt of a written request and a valid petition. In the event that a requested location does not meet the minimum requirements as stated above, the request will be administratively denied in writing, to the designated representative with the reason for not meeting the required justifications. Staff may propose an alternate Traffic Calming Device. Subsequent requests for the same street or location will not be considered for a minimum of one year. If the installation does not meet at least two of the minimum requirements, the installation may be considered for approval by City Council if the requestor agrees to fully fund the installation.

The City of Cocoa Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department must review and administratively approve all requests for SPEED HUMPS, SPEED CUSHIONS or TRAFFIC CALMING measures before being presented to the City Council. The city Council shall have the right to approve or deny the request at its discretion based on the minimum requirements set forth herein and any other factors relevant to the public health safety and welfare.

The streets division may allocate a portion of its annual budget for speed humps. The amount will be approved as a part of the annual budget process. If a project is recommended for approval by City staff and approved by the City Council, the City will determine financing of the construction. If all city funds have already been allocated, the request may either be funded by the requestor, or will be placed on a waiting list until funds become available in order of approval date. At the time the street is repaved, SPEED HUMPS or SPEED CUSHIONS may or may not be replaced at the city's sole option. If they are not replaced, justifications for replacement must be met using the above procedures.


QUESTIONS
COCOA
FLORIDA