

**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
DECEMBER 11, 2012**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross opened the Workshop at 5:19 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Mallozzi, Sims, Curran, Green and Mayor Ross.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Add Item #5, Other City Business, to the Workshop Agenda.

MOTION: To approve the addition of Item #5.

Moved by Commissioner Mallozzi. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. All aye on roll call vote.

4. AGENDA CONCERNS

Gabriel De Gedeon, 5882 SW 99th Lane, expressed his distaste for Commissioner Sims' Facebook comments.

Gladys Wilson, 5155 SW 90th Avenue, objected to the placement of Item 5 on the Agenda and to the process used to obtain the presentation by Asher Soldwedel for Item 6.

Christine Timmon, 12 S.E. 20th Street, Fort Lauderdale, spoke in support of Commissioner Sims' comments and against the scrutiny of his critics.

James Jones, Cooper City resident, address exempt, explained that he had notified the Mayor and the Commission via email requesting that they publicly condemn Commissioner Sims for his Facebook post and request his resignation. He detailed subsequent communications with Commissioner Sims and advised that he would listen to what Commissioner Sims had to say.

Skip Klauber, 10241 Guatemala Street, expressed his opposition to the attention given to Commissioner Sims' personal comments as previous actions by local public officials have not received such scrutiny. He accused the 2006 Commission of election violations.

5. OTHER CITY BUSINESS

Commissioner Sims apologized for his Facebook post. He conveyed his regret for the reposting of the political satire which was offensive to

others. He expressed his intent to represent the best interests of all citizens of Cooper City.

Commissioner Curran accepted Commissioner Sims' apology and advised that the Facebook posting was not supported by the City Commission. He added that these types of offensive public displays would not be tolerated in the future.

Commissioner Mallozzi condemned the content of the Facebook post but expressed her support for the rights of all Americans to express themselves in speech and in writing. She accepted Commissioner Sims' apology and asked that the public not view the post as a representation of the City.

Commissioner Green extended his forgiveness to Commissioner Sims and advised that every word and deed publicly expressed by an elected official is subject to scrutiny. He cautioned discretion and consideration for the feelings of every person when verbalizing or publishing personal opinions. He reminded his colleagues that they are held to a higher standard when it comes to exercising their rights to free speech and are held accountable for their actions.

Mayor Ross explained that, after receiving numerous requests from residents to publicly chastise Commissioner Sims, he asked for this Item to be added to the Agenda to give Commissioner Sims an opportunity to address the matter and/or to apologize. He accepted the apology from Commissioner Sims and expressed his position that the Facebook comment is not indicative of the City or the views of the Commission. He apologized to the public on behalf of the entire Commission.

MOTION: To recess the meeting for 5 minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Sims. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. All aye on roll call vote.

6. ELECTION REDISTRICTING PROCESS

City Manager Loucks explained that this proposal presentation is a result of the Charter amendment which directs Commission redistricting based on population. He clarified that while the cost of this proposal allows for administrative approval, he felt the nature of the task dictated full Commission participation and approval for transparency. He briefed the Commission as to the content of the contract and introduced Asher Soldwedel of the VPT Lab of Florida Atlantic University.

Mr. Soldwedel explained the function of the Visual Planning Technology lab at FAU. He described the criteria for redistricting based upon the

Charter directives and provided a presentation of the redistricting process, including various options for mapping criteria and data sources.

It was determined that, for the purposes of transparency, all documentation submitted to the City regarding the redistricting process will be posted to the City's website.

City Manager Loucks advised that some Commission members had requested that their current laptop computers be replaced with tablets. Direction was given to proceed with the purchase of tablets.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

NOTICE: This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 954-434-4300 ext. 220, not later than two days prior to such proceeding. One or more members of the City of Cooper City Advisory Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by the Cooper City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Agenda items may be viewed online at www.coopercityfl.org or at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Cooper City, 9090 SW 50 Place, Cooper City, Florida, 33328, 954-434-4300.