

**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JULY 15, 2015
6:30 PM**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross Opened the Commission Meeting at 6:30 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. AGENDA CONCERNS

Ed Wooley, 11038 Nashville Drive, suggested the Commission approve a matching grant program as discussed the prior evening rather than simply donating funds; and that the City should not discriminate against private or charter schools.

David Brundage, 5621 SW 88th Terrace, suggested that the City develop a dog park in conjunction with all of the money spent on park projects.

4. BUDGET DISCUSSION

Commissioner Green asked for a status update of the fire station renovations, what is needed to complete the project and the estimated cost. Chief Caruso confirmed that carpeting and painting are needed in a small area and all other renovations are complete. He received clarification regarding the scheduled renovations to be completed at the police station and asserted that the fire station renovations should be completed prior to proceeding on to the police station. He confirmed that the question of funding student programs upon request in the future would be handled through a City grant process with a matching criteria, the details of which will be established through a workshop process.

Commissioner Curran apologized for having to miss the workshop of the prior evening due to a family emergency. He explained that he is hoping for a 4% increase to employee salaries that will affect neither COLA nor merit increases in the future, but opposed changes to the percentages upon which merit increases may be issued. He explained that he has not yet formed an opinion regarding synthetic turf and looks forward to learning more about it. He recapped some of the spending on park renovations and utility upgrades from the previous year.

Commissioner Mallozzi agreed that a 4% increase to employee salaries is due as a means of reinvesting in City staff. She asked Chief Caruso to

clarify the potential impact of a 12-hour shift for staffing the second rescue vehicle. Chief Caruso explained that the stipulations contained within the current Collective Bargaining Agreement would prohibit that method of staffing unless negotiated and agreed upon with the union. She then explained her understanding of the staffing process and cost.

Commissioner Sims received clarification regarding use of the Police Confiscation Fund, other funding for improvements to City buildings, funding for the \$1.6 million dollar Water Treatment Plant Control Systems upgrade and other proposed projects. He explained that merit increases are a function of the City Manager and should not come before the Commission and agreed that an increase to employees' salaries is merited at this time. He addressed the suggestion of staffing the second rescue vehicle with 12-hour shift personnel and stated that the City has no authority to dictate how shifts are hired.

Mayor Ross agreed that any loose ends left undone at the fire station should be completed prior to moving on to improvements at the police station. He agreed that management of employees is to be left strictly to the City Manager and not brought to Commission. He agreed with the proposed process for granting funds to student organizations for national events. He asked for a status update regarding previous conversations about developing a dog park.

Mayor Ross recognized Ariana Milian, who previously missed the opportunity to speak during Agenda Concerns.

Ariana Milian, 12570 NW 10th Street, Sunrise, spoke on behalf of the Cooper City High School Band of Pride and implored the Commission to fund their trip to the Sugar Bowl with a \$100,000.00 donation.

Commissioner Green extended his support for a 4% increase and explained that he is also in favor of a promotional merit program. He suggested that staff investigate the possibility of converting an existing park into a dog park. He addressed Commissioner Mallozzi's explanation regarding the possibility of staffing the second rescue vehicle with 12-hour shift personnel.

MOTION: To extend Commissioner Curran's time to 7 minutes on each round, as a family emergency prohibited him from voicing his concerns at the prior workshop.

Moved by Commissioner Mallozzi. Seconded by Commissioner Green. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.

Commissioner Curran explained that he will support the funding of the synthetic turf project, regardless of whether the City chooses to move in that direction or not, as the choice will be based on further research. He suggested the City implement a grant writing program and asked Chief

Caruso about writing grants to help fund the staffing of the second rescue vehicle. He agreed with previous comments that there should be a cap on each matching funds donation that may be distributed to each organization through the proposed Cooper City schools grant for nationally recognized student participation. He requested an explanation of Professional Services and Contract Services and how much outsourcing is done by the Recreation Department and Public Works for maintenance type work, such as painting and laser grating. He requested a line item funded with \$100,000.00 be used to assist senior citizens (60 years of age and older) who have been issued code enforcement citations for violations that they cannot afford to bring into compliance due to financial hardships. He further suggested that the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board come up with the criteria for the application process. He requested the funding of a new position in the Recreation Department for a senior citizen services and programs assistant.

Commissioner Mallozzi clarified that she did not intend to dictate how Fire Safety personnel is staffed. She addressed the disadvantages associated with the installation of a dog park in residential neighborhoods, and questioned the failure to apply for the Safer Grant in 2015. She expressed support for hiring a grant writer.

Commissioner Sims advised that a grant writer should be contracted on an "as needed" basis and not hired as a City employee. He addressed the possibility of a dog park and questioned several potential locations. He addressed the purchase of a vac truck and the use of advisory boards. He suggested that the Commission issue directives to the Recreation Advisory Board and the Education Advisory Board to propose a criteria and grant funding process for the proposed Cooper City schools grant for nationally recognized student participation. He agreed that a funding program specific to assisting seniors should be developed through the advice of the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board.

Mayor Ross suggested that a fund manager be named for the implementation of a senior citizen assistance program for funding repairs or maintenance associated with code violations. He suggested the Business Advisory Board devise a vendor listing for local businesses that may be contracted to perform the work needed to bring the homes of those who qualify into compliance through the senior citizen assistance program. He agreed that a grant writer should be contracted as needed.

MOTION: To allow a third time around for Commissioners to present their budgetary concerns.

Moved by Commissioner Curran. Seconded by Commissioner Sims. All eye on roll call vote. Motion passed.

Commissioner Green addressed the senior citizen assistance program as compared to the CDBG for minor home repairs. He advised that there needs to be strict oversight and cautious formulation of the funding criteria. He advised utilizing a grant writer on an as-needed basis.

Commissioner Curran clarified his suggestion for a grant writer and additionally requested the creation of a customer service position to follow up with residents regarding their dealings with City staff. He recommended Lynda Good to assist the Senior Advisory Board with the implementation of their next Senior Citizen Expo and evaluation of the survey taken at their last expo. He reiterated that the installation of synthetic turf on any of the City's fields would happen only after a lengthy vetting process, including presentations by various providers of these products; but that the funds need approval in the budget to begin to move forward.

Commissioner Mallozzi addressed the suggested senior citizen assistance program and pointed out some of the cautions regarding implementing such a fund and requesting a proof of a need for the program.

MOTION: To direct the Senior Advisory Board, after a workshop is conducted between the Commission, the Senior Advisory Board and The Business Advisory Board, to develop an application criteria for the implementation of the senior citizen assistance program as suggested.

Moved by Commissioner Sims. Seconded by Commissioner Curran.

MOTION AMENDED BY MAKER: To make the program be inclusive of all residents who can prove a financial need based on their individual circumstance.

Moved by Commissioner Sims. Seconded by Commissioner Curran.

All aye on roll call vote to motion as amended. Motion passed.

MOTION: To place a dog park within the Flamingo Road Park.

Moved by Mayor Ross. Seconded by Commissioner Green. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

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.