



**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and Chloe Reed from Renaissance Charter led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer, Green, Curran and Mayor Ross.

3. CHANGES TO AGENDA/EMERGENCY MATTERS

None.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

The Commission made the following announcements:

- Cooper City Open Play Chess continues each Saturday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Pool & Tennis Center with the Mayors Chess Challenge on each third Saturday. Instruction is available. For more information, call 954-434-7300. The next Mayor's chess challenge will be held by the City of Parkland on February 29, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 pm at the Parkland Recreation and Enrichment Center located at 10559 Trails End. The City of Hollywood will host on March 7, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Fred Lippman Shuffleman Building located at 309 N 21st Avenue.
- Cooper Academy will begin on Monday March 9, 2020. There will be 8 sessions from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. For more information, please call Denise Lasarte at 954-434-4300 Ext 263.
- Cooper City Recreation will hold the City Garage Sale on March 28, 2020. Registration begins on February 26, 2020 at the Community Center. For more information, call 954-434-4300 Ext. 272 for more information.
- Founders Day celebration will be held on Saturday March 14, 2020. For more information, call 954-434-4300 Ext. 272 for more information.
- The annual Teen Twilight Egg Hunt will be held on April 9, 2020. Registration begins on March 11, 2020 at the Community Center and Pool and Tennis Center. Contact the Recreation Department for more information at 954-434-4300 Ext. 272.

- Census Day is April 1, 2020. Everyone in your household must be counted. You should receive a postcard in the mail between March 12-20, 2020. If you have any questions contact Lisa Emrekovic or Sydney Bleiweiss at City Hall.
- Cooper City Relay for Life will be held on April 25, 2020 at the Cooper City High School. Cooper City Water Bottles may be purchased for \$7.00 or 3 for \$20.00. For more information, please call Denise Lasarte at 954-434-4300 Ext 263.
- Join Commissioner Meltzer for a Walk in the Park on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM at Flamingo West Park. Also, join the walk on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at Memorial Park.
- Upcoming Commission Meetings: Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM and March 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Commission meetings are scheduled at 6:30 PM in the City Hall Auditorium located at 9090 SW 50 Place.

The Commission made the following presentations:

- a. Carla Souza was presented with March Yard of the Month
- b. Chief Crauso recognized Lieutenant Patrick Talbert, Firefighter/Paramedic Hamlet Bruguera and Firefighter/Paramedic Mario Catala for their heroic efforts. Lieutenant Patrick Talbert, FF/PM Hamlet Bruguera and FF/PM Mario Catala were also recognized as the February 2020 Employees of the month.
- c. Jeff English, Publix Manager was recognized for donations during hurricane preparedness.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

a. Open Public Meeting

Bob Sands, welcomed Mr. Napoli to the city. He also thanked BSO Fire and Police they responded immediately to an accident he was in on Griffin Road.

Jen Goldfarb, 11869 SW 55 St, welcomed Mr. Napoli and spoke on the sewer backup incident in December. She believes Commissioner Curran did not follow protocol but he thanked him for going above and beyond.

Frank Lanza, 10457 SW 56 St, thanked BSO for always being there when you need them. He also thanked the Commission and Mayor for investing money into the optimist club. He spoke on the sewer backup incident and making choices based on doing the right thing for the customer.

Eileen Ryan, 111807 SW 47 Court, thanked the commission for all they do. She said she has been a resident of Cooper City for 29 years and has known Commissioner Curran for most of those years and he someone who shows up and helps.

Mike Bufalo, 11648 SW 55 St asked about ownership of the canal property.

City Attorney Horowitz stated the status and advised title work is being done.

David Nall said this commission focuses on process, procedure and charter especially recently. He understands Commissioner Curran's intentions but good intention does not absolve a person from improper action.

Gail Tucker, 9200 SW 55 St, the property owner whose home is the focus of Item 10-1 spoke on Commissioner Curran coming to her aid during the sewer backup incident. She thanked Commissioner Curran.

Mayor Ross apologized for what happened in her home. He also said the best method of contact is calling the Utility department. In addition, he never brought up a censure.

Ms. Tucker said what matters to her is that it was taken care of.

Commissioner Pulcini said he spoke to Ms. Tucker the night of the incident and he called the City manager and the City Manager contacted Utilities and they dispatched someone from the City. The crew was dispatched but Commissioner Curran had already transmitted help.

Brian Kraus, 5500 SW 98 Way, said that he has been a resident since 1992 and that Jamie Curran is the most selfless person he knows.

Mayor Ross said this is not predetermined item it was placed on the agenda for transparency and process.

b. Agenda Concerns

6. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Optimist Club Monthly Update – Administration

Pete Schlang, Optimist President advised Soccerfest was a great event and he thanked Chief Cates and Caruso. Five on Five registrations are completed with about 900 children participating. Adult Volleyball is ongoing with 130 adults participating. Baseball just had opening day with 700 participants. Softball also started with 130 participants. There are 300 participants for flag football. Tackle football has an extension for tournament play. Basketball has opened online registrations. They are currently trying to confirm the High School and Pioneer being available for evaluations and the season.

b. Monthly Financial Report – Finance

Finance Director Sherry Walker advised we are preceding as normal within the budget. In the Building Services fund if there is a deficit at year end the General

Fund will need to make the fund whole. The capital projects funding is pending a million dollar grant.

Commissioner Meltzer asked about the general fund budget to actual we have the line item licensing and permits which is business tax receipts.

Mrs. Walker said it is all billed and collected at the same time.

Commissioner Meltzer asked about the charges for services in the general fund.

Mrs. Walker answered it is the fire assessment.

Commissioner Meltzer asked about the sanitation fund.

Mrs. Walker said there is a missing payment.

Commissioner Curran asked for a FEMA update.

Mrs. Walker said she has contacted the state.

c. Appointments to City Boards

City Clerk Sims advised Commissioner Green appointed Jacqueline Sanchez to the Green Advisory Board and Andrew Gross to the Public Safety Advisory Board.

d. Charter Review Board Update

Bob Sands gave an update on the board. The Board should be finished on March 3, 2020. There are 11 items with a 12th item coming back. At the last meeting the Board decided to send the Commission the list and they can decide what is important. He also thanked the Commission for appointing members that led to great discussions.

7. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Cates thanked the residents for their kind words. He advised Tip-a-Cop will be help at Beef O Brady's on March 4, 2020 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. On February 20, 2020 Linda Victor held An AARP class that is very informative. In October 2019, the school traffic operation plan was initiated since then he has received reports of issues so the plan is back in effect. There are currently four vacancies but we will receive a certified deputy by next week.

Commissioner Pulcini thanked Chief for the quick response to the school traffic concerns. He asked about the crime statistics he requested.

Chief Cates said the official numbers were issued and there has been a decrease in crime he also said he sent Commissioner Pulcini the statistics but he will send the information again.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked him for addressing school issues in County Address however; Cooper City Elementary is having an issue when deputies are not present.

8. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Caruso advised Fire and DLE attended the annual Embassy Lakes HOA meeting to provide updates. Breakfast for the Brave was held on February 14, 2020 at Pioneer he thanked Pioneer for the event. In addition, on February 14, they had love and kindness treats from teachers and staff. He thanked all the teachers and staff. On February 18, 2020 Fire and DLE was present at the CCHS Career night. The basic CERT class continues and on Friday February 21, they had their Big Heart Breakfast and he thanked Renaissance Charter.

Commissioner Meltzer said CERT training is every Thursday evening at 6:00 PM at the Pool and Tennis Center. It is a great class if anyone is interested.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes

1. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2020

MOTION: To approve Consent Agenda. **Moved by Commissioner Curran. Seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

10. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion on sewer backup incident – Mayor Ross

Mayor Ross advised he asked for this to be placed on the agenda for transparency and process he is truly grateful for such a great turnout. Facebook is not usually accurate. Process is important we do that to avoid any improprieties, conflicts of interest, and we use it as a sort of checks and balances. Everyone involved will get a chance to speak. Mike Bailey Utilities Director is here and prepared to speak. Mayor Ross asked the City Manager to advise when an incident like this occurs what is the procedure to follow. Mayor Ross also welcomed Mr. Napoli.

City Manager Napoli, thanked the Commission, staff and the residents for the warm welcome he has received. In such a scenario, the City Manager would get word and then direct staff. He said that not having a City Manager may have been an problem in the past but he is always available as well as the Assistant City Manager.

Mike Bailey Utilities Director said there were was issues that occurred within the Utilities department. He advised City Crews were notified, they went out to clear the blockage it caused a sewer backup. In the process of cleaning the main the jet nozzle can point up to the sewer connection of someone's home. During cleanup the resident spoke to the crewman and it was his understanding that it was a backup and he didn't understand the severity. The crew successful cleared the blockage and then Ms. Tucker called the utility department and the

crewman went out to her home and advised her he could not enter the home. Mr. Bailey said the crewman should have called a supervisor. Ms. Tucker took to facebook and a supervisor was sent out and the situation was on its way to being resolved.

Mayor Ross asked if the cleaning company used was issued by staff.

Mr. Bailey answered no. The process in this situation is City staff would have called a firm to come out.

Mayor Ross asked if staff did call a firm to come out.

Mr. Bailey said the supervisor went to the resident's home and expected he was going to call a crew but found out a crew was on their way. He was notified of the situation by Commissioner Curran. He did not contact the City Manager he contacted the field supervisor of the Utility Department to go out and inspect the situation.

Mayor Ross asked who is the Supervisor and what was the next steps.

Mr. Bailey answered Chad Bergeron is the Field Operations Supervisor and he inspected the site.

Mayor Ross asked if the Interim City Manager was contacted.

Mr. Bailey responded Commissioner Pulcini contacted the previous Interim City Manager and he contacted the Assistant Utilities Director as he was out of town.

Mayor Ross asked what happened after he spoke to the City Manager.

Mr. Bailey said he told him we would inspect the situation and take care of it.

Mayor Ross asked if Mr. Bailey had contact with Commissioner Curran.

Mr. Bailey said there were text conversations and some telephone conversations where Commissioner Curran gave him information.

Mayor Ross asked if he told Commissioner Curran that he would take care of it.

Mr. Bailey said yes.

Mayor Ross asked if the company that was called he had utilized before.

Mr. Bailey answered he had never heard of them but the situation is very rare.

Mayor Ross asked who paid for cleanup.

Mr. Bailey said it was cleaned up and for this situation if the resident wouldn't of called a cleanup crew we would of called and they would of billed the city. In this case the supervisor heard a cleanup crew was on the way so the supervisor said for them to bill the City.

Commissioner Pulcini said he understood that the City called a cleanup crew and we had to cancel them before we had charged. He said the first time he spoke to Mr. Bailey this is what he understood.

Commissioner Meltzer asked Ms. Tucker if clean-up been was to her satisfaction.

Ms. Tucker said yes.

Commissioner Meltzer said he knows Commissioner Curran has a good heart but there is a process. He said he receives emails, texts and calls from residents with concerns and he always go straight to the City Manager. He said staff always handles the issues.

Ms. Tucker said when the incident happened she was home alone and she showed photos to a Utility employee nearby so to say they did not know the severity is not accurate to her. She also said she did call the Utility Department back and they sent staff over and said they could not enter her home. She said she understands it was an accident and does not want anyone to fault Commissioner Curran.

Mayor Ross said no one is in trouble. He brought forth the issue to recognize process. He said we need to contact the City Manager and avoid any problems in the future. We do not want any ethic issues to arise. He said a checks and balances is good.

Commissioner Green offered his sincerest apologies to Ms. Tucker. He would have done the same thing Commissioner Curran did if he had exhausted all contacts with the City, as there is a process. These were extenuating circumstances. He said we talk about process and transparency but we are not transparent. He believes now with a permanent City Manager we can remember this night and follow all processes. He thanked all the residents who came out to support Ms. Tucker.

Commissioner Curran thanked everyone who came to the meeting. He took an oath in 2008 to do what is right for the residents. He said at the January 28 meeting a resident spoke on him being censured. He said he prides himself on being respectful to everyone and even after his time as a Commissioner he we be there for the residents. He said the Mayor allowed a resident 31 minutes to speak on a normal basis that resident should have had to wait to the rebuttal. He said another resident gave his opinion and asked what the Commission would do about it. He said he was acting on Ms. Tuckers behalf and called the carpet cleaner in. The person he called is a 20-year friend who has insurance

and has worked in the City before. When he called the company, he did not mention money. He did not call the City Manager because he asked him for 3 items that he still has not received. He said the resident was nervous and shaken and the home was in disarray. He said he owes Mr. Bailey an apology because his staff is excellent and when he spoke to Mr. Bailey on the phone he could not hear the call completely as he had bad service. He said in 12 years he had never asked staff for anything. He said if he let the Commission down he is sorry but that night he helped a resident. He said it has been a struggle for 15 months without a City Manager, with all appreciation to Mrs. Sims. He said his focus that night was Ms. Tucker and he apologizes to the residents if he did not follow the rules.

Mayor Ross said he always allow everyone to speak. He said you have to respect the office. It is clear now what the process is and it is a teaching moment.

2. Motion to approve and accept Easement Agreement with Regency Centers LP, for Countryside Shops – Utilities

MOTION: To approve and accept Easement Agreement with Regency Centers LP, for Countryside Shops. **Moved by Commissioner Green. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

3. Discussion on Community Development Block Grant procedures – Commission

City Manager Napoli advised no moneys were left on the table. Through an application process, we had access to money each year for the Homeowners Assistant program and that money is still available. Due to qualifications its difficult to qualify residents. Ms. Weiss from the county is here and they have advertised the program along with the City. He wants to advertise more and will continue to work with the County to help qualify residents.

Susan Weiss from Broward County Housing Finance and Community Redevelopment was present to talk about the Community Development Block Grants money which is federal funds. They are an allocated by Congress to the County. Cooper City is a small city and based on population funds are allocated to the City. Every City has the right to decide what they want to do with their funds. There is a purchase assistant program and they have not received any offers. She explained the process and said it is a tremendous program. The reason we cannot deploy the funds in Cooper City is there is not a need in the City. Cooper City has not lost any funds.

Commissioner Meltzer asked if there are any other programs we can take advantage off.

Ms. Weiss said we could move the funds to the minor home improvement program.

Commissioner Meltzer asked for data from within the County such as value of the homes, income of resident, the nature of repairs and cost of repairs.

Commissioner Pulcini asked if it is income based.

Ms. Weiss answered yes. A challenge is most people have a mortgage and we put this second mortgage there. If you have a reverse or adjustable rate mortgage, they cannot do the work.

Commissioner Pulcini asked why we moved from the small home repair to the other program.

Ms. Weiss said qualifying the homeowner was an issue as there is an income and asset cap. Also there were complaints on the timeliness.

Commissioner Curran said the City has nothing to do with the process and we would not know who qualified.

Ms. Weiss said the County would provide that information to the City.

Commissioner Curran asked if we do not fit this program period. Maybe we give it to other cities who can benefit from the programs.

Commissioner Meltzer asked for clarifications on income requirements.

Ms. Weiss said the federal government issues area medium amounts. The chart in the backup was given from the federal government. The Cooper City titled chart is the current chart.

Commissioner Green asked if we had any residents to qualify for the minor home report in the past years.

Ms. Weiss answered I am sure you have. There were issues in 2015/2016. They took open applications in 2017 serving 40 people.

Commissioner Green asked the amount of grant monies for the minor home repairs.

Ms. Weiss said allocations are about \$50,000.

Mayor Ross asked as a partner are we expected to advertise.

Ms. Weiss said we all want to see money spent in Cooper City. She has spoke to Mr. Wood and Cooper City has done a great job.

Mayor Ross said in 2009, 2010 and 2011 as magistrate he sent residents to the SHIP program and there were issues with contractors. He asked if we can mainstream the process.

Ms. Weiss spoke on the issues they address.

Mayor Ross asked if we could look into the program.

Ryan Shrouder asked if the City in particular has lost money. In his eyes, we have lost money. The City chooses how we spend the money. He spoke on his concerns with applying for money and not using it and also spending money on a consultant.

Mr. Napoli said we have not lost money we have not accessed money. We can choose to switch over to the minor repair program.

Mr. Shrouder asked about information he received.

Ms. Weiss said the words in the document may read to appear we lost the money but the funds have not gone back to the federal program. Funds are available.

Commissioner Pulcini asked if the county will help us administer the repair program and would we have residents that qualify.

Ms. Weiss answered the program is very popular. The process requires a public hearing but the county can administer the program with a fee.

Mr. Shrouder asked why we paid a consultant.

Mr. Napoli said we no longer have the consultant.

Commissioner Curran said in 2009 contractors were going door to door and the problem was the jobs were started and never finished.

Ms. Weiss said the County has a process for contractors.

Mayor Ross thanked Ms. Weiss.

Consensus was reached to look into the Minor Home Repair Program.

4. Motion to approve two-year renewal of Ranch Style PVC Fence to NDR Maintenance, Inc – **Public Works**

MOTION: To approve a two-year renewal of Ranch Style PVC Fence to NDR Maintenance, Inc **Moved by Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Napoli thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

12. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

- a. Verbal report on Reasonable Accommodation Procedure

City Attorney Horowitz gave an overview of the reasonable accommodation procedure. He also advised there are no applications currently pending.

Mayor Ross asked if this issue was based in Rock Creek and if there are code violations. He would like to send code to verify.

Commissioner Green said he does not have an address this was from a social media post.

13. ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

None.

14. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS/REPORTS

Commissioner Green said he is grateful we have Mr. Napoli in place and he hopes that he can encourage the residents to move forward. He also thanked Mrs. Sims and Mr. Lynn who served as interim and staff who have worked the past months without a permanent City Manager.

Commissioner Curran spoke on the good and bad concerning social media. He hopes in the future he does not have to use social media to bring a group to support him. He also said it was not his intent to lessen the leadership Mrs. Sims brought to the City. He wants to work as a team and get the City back to where it use to be.

Commissioner Meltzer welcomed Mr. Napoli and looks forward to working with him. He thanked Denise Yoezle for Public Works Relay for Life fundraiser.

Commissioner Pulcini welcomed Mr. Napoli and wants to move forward under his leadership. He also thanked all that watched and came to the meeting.

Mayor Ross thanked Mrs. Yoezle for the Public Works event. He also said spoke on the downside of social media as it can be good, bad and ugly. He directed residents who have utility issues to call 954-434-5519 as that line is open 24 hours. He just wanted to get the issue in the open and not bring up censure. He believes under new leadership we can move forward and work together.

15. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (2 MINUTES)

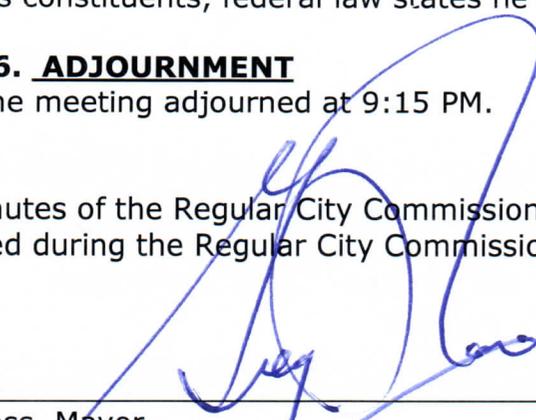
Mike Bufalo, 11648 SW 55 St, spoke on the positive aspects of social media. He would like to have the City embrace social media. He also welcomed Mr. Napoli and he wants to revisit contracts in the City in the future.

David Nall, spoke on social media and asked Commissioner Curran to unblock his constituents, federal law states he cannot block them.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

The minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting of February 25, 2020 were approved during the Regular City Commission Meeting of March 10, 2020.



Greg Ross, Mayor



Kathryn Sims, City Clerk

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